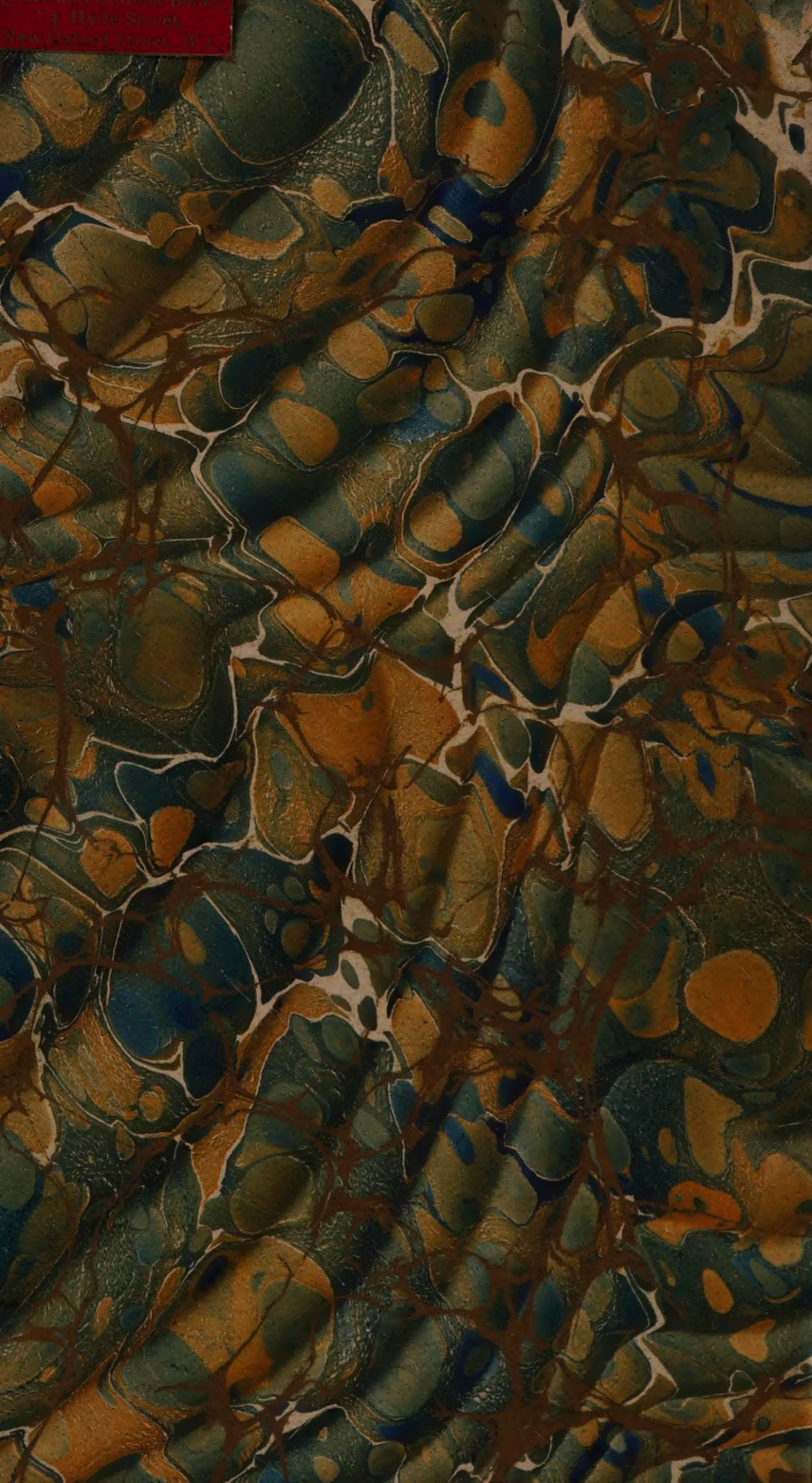




3 Hyde Street,  
New Bedford, Mass. U.S.A.







London

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March

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CHEATS

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# FRONTISPIECE.



*Hodge Sculp.*

The above represents, a Register Office, the Master of which is Receiving Money from a Lady who is come to Hire a Servant; on the Left Side are two Town Rakes smiling at the Simplicity of a Country Girl who is come to seek for a Mistress; and on the Right is an Old Bawd waiting for the Opportunity to Hire the Girl under Pretence of a Servant, though in Reality she is only Intended for the Rakes to Debauch.



THE  
Cheats of LONDON Exposed:  
OR, THE  
TRICKS of the TOWN  
Laid Open to BOTH SEXES.  
BEING

A clear Discovery of all the various Frauds and Villainies that are daily practised in that great City. Among many others, are the following, viz.

Highwaymen, or	Duffers,	Bawds,
Scamps,	Setters,	Whores,
Sharpers,	Pretended Friends,	Pimps,
Gamblers,	Mock Auctions,	Jilts,
Kidnappers,	Register-Offices,	Gossips,
Waggon-hunters,	Quacks,	And
Money-droppers,	Bullies,	Fortune-Tellers.

The whole laid down in so plain and easy a manner, as to enable the most innocent Country People to be compleatly on their Guard how to avoid the base Impositions of such vile and abandoned Wretches, who live by robbing and ruining the young and innocent of both Sexes.

TOGETHER WITH  
GENERAL REMARKS on the present State and Condition of the Town, interspersed with useful Admonitions, to Persons of all Ages and Conditions.

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By the Author of the *MIDNIGHT SPY*.

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Herein are shewn the various Feats  
Of Whores and Rogues, and other Cheats;  
Here Youth are taught those Snares to shun,  
By which *too many* are undone.

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Adorned with curious Copper-Plates.

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L O N D O N:

Printed for J. COOKE, at the Shakespear's-Head,  
in Pater-noster-Row. Price One Shilling.

*This Pamphlet is entered in the  
Hall-Book of the Company of Sta-  
tioners, so that whoever shall presume  
to pyrate it, will be prosecuted as the  
Law directs. And to prevent Imposi-  
tion, every Book shall be signed on  
the Back of the Title Page by the  
Publisher*

*J. P. Cooke*





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# P R E F A C E.

**T**HE descriptions and admonitions contained in the following sheets, were dictated by one who has sorely experienced the fatal effects of an ensnaring town in his own family.

If a sister allured into destruction, and a brother brought to a shameful end, even after a virtuous education, through the bewitching wiles of those who lay in wait to deceive, may be deemed sufficient motives to excite aversion to the base causes, the author thinks apology for this undertaking wholly needless.

A man cannot evince his regard to his fellow-creatures, in a stronger manner than by warning them of dangerous courses, and directing them towards those, which lead to virtue and happiness.

As, in a natural sense, guiding the blind, and informing the ignorant are esteemed the most exalted acts of humanity ; so in a moral one, to point out to the innocent and unwary, the traps that are laid for them, and into which, if they fall, the most fatal consequences will ensue, must be allowed the highest instance of benevolence.

A young person trained under the eye of an affectionate parent, accustomed to sober company, and chaste and innocent in converse, generally attracts the dispositions of those, amongst whom he lives ; and if he has not been much abroad into a busy, and ensnaring world, is apt to believe, that those honest, downright principles, which influence his actions, are generally prevalent with the rest of mankind.

Though to be ignorant of the various forms of fraud and deceit practised in this busy scene of things, may be deemed some part of the happiness of rural life ; yet if the unexperienced youth embarks in this maze of perplexity, without caution against its various chicaneries, that very ignorance may prove his bane.

The



The design of this little undertaking is to exhibit to the view of the honest Londoner as well as Countryman, a picture of low-life that is daily acted in this town, to the ruin of thousands of innocent youth, and distress of thousands of disconsolate parents.

To render our plan more perceptible to our reader, we shall range the various vicious and abandoned characters of both sexes, under distinct heads, wherein will be given a succinct account of their detestable practices, and to which will be subjoined the most expedient methods to avoid their pernicious effects.

The author, to exempt himself from any injurious imputation he might otherwise incur from being acquainted with every minute circumstance of such horrid scenes, thinks proper to inform the ingenuous reader, that they were communicated to him by an unhappy brother, who had been an actor in many of them, and spectator in all.

Affected by their influence on so near a relative, and dreading their dire effects on others, he thinks it incumbent on him, as a debt of humanity, thus to

expose those fallacies, that deprive so many not only of their reputation, but their very lives.

As his intention is honest, he hopes little inaccuracies will be overlooked, especially as his labours are not calculated for the perusal of the carping critic, but the plain honest man, who hates every thing which is base, and will therefore readily embrace what may be offered to enable him to detect and avoid it.

Regardless, therefore, of the sneer of modern wits, or the ridicule of the abandoned, he will esteem it an ample compensation for the pains he has bestowed on this trifle, if it happily tends to the detection and destruction of one vice, or defence and promotion of one virtue.





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THE  
CHEATS  
OF  
LONDON Exposed;  
OR, THE  
TRICKS of the TOWN  
Laid open to both Sexes :

**I**N this little treatise we have not only undertaken to guide the countryman of all ranks to London, but to preserve him when there; nor are we at the same time less deficient in endeavouring to keep inviolate the morals of our townsmen; in order to which we begin with

HIGHWAYMEN or SCAMPS.

**T**HESE are generally persons, that have been accustomed to extravagant living, and lewd women, and thus exhausted their substance. If successful in business they appear as gentlemen, and get acquainted with the officers on the road, and some landlords to obtain intelligence. Gentlemen travellers frequently call for the landlord to take a glass with them; and in  
the

the course of conversation discover what cash or notes they have, and where they lie, the road they are going, and the inn they use. When Mr. Scamp comes, he calls for a bottle or bowl, and asks, what news? when, perhaps, the landlord, undesignedly, informs him that such or such company are in the house, who have given intelligence concerning various particulars, which he repeats if time permits. For these reasons many gentlemen are pursued on the road, though more are met by chance. Highwaymen generally cross you before they salute; but I advise all gentlemen travellers not to divulge what substance they have with them to any landlord or ostler, especially within forty miles of London; as they generally discover all the information they can get, either through ignorance or design.

## S H A R P E R S.

**T**HESE are the more delusive, as most of them are men of reputable extraction, tolerable education, and decent appearance; but through vicious pursuits have squandered their fortunes, and lost their reputation. They range the town in the garb, and under the character of gentlemen of independent fortunes; and make it their business to find out young heirs of much wealth, and less prudence, who having left their rural abodes, and being captivated with the novelty of a town life, often affect the company of those who, according to the common phrase, are said *to know life*. They commonly resort the billiard table, the cockpit, the race course, the  
tennis



tennis court, and bowling-green ; in the respective games belonging to which they are generally well versed by a long, *once* costly experience.

Having been as they call it *taken in* themselves, they falsely infer their right to take in others ; and accordingly turn their whole minds to that base purpose. Constant practice teaches them almost at a glance to discern the gamester from the *cake*, as they term it ; and such a one is no sooner entered their place of resort, but they devise means to draw him in for the plate ; and generally strip his pockets before he departs. So fallacious are they, that they will, even under the mask of friendship, draw an unguarded, generous man into the most destructive measures, and share with their base confederates the product of their treachery. If you hazard your Money in bets with a sharper, as cheating is his inseparable qualification, you have not only blind chance to deal with, but such a combination of deceit, and such a train of tricks and slights link'd together, that even good fortune itself is not sufficient to guard and secure you against them. Nay, if you could arise to a degree of eminence in any particular game, he would even then devise means, either by working up your passion, or eluding your inspection, to frustrate your point and carry his own.

He will inveigle you, from time to time, into one sport or another, amongst others of his clan, who are adepts in dissimulation, till they have genteely fleeced you of perhaps your all, and treat you afterwards with as much indifference,

as he at first affected respect. When you can no longer administer to his iniquitous purposes, he will not only desert you, but make a scoff of your inexperience and credulity. To sum up the character of a sharper; he is one, who supplies his exigencies by studying and practising every means, that may deceive the credulous, allure the inexperienced, trapan the ignorant, and mislead the well disposed. His conscience is seared, as it were, with a hot iron, he is regardless of the laws of God and man, as far as is consistent with his security, and is so absorbed in vice, that he is insusceptible of every humane or honourable sentiment. To avoid the fatal effects of connection with these snakes in the grass, if you have no acquaintance in town, be very cautious of keeping company. If any one behaves with extraordinary civility towards you, or affects to desire your friendship, beware of him, listen not to his enticements, for as you are a stranger to him, his desire of cultivating an acquaintance with you must arise from base or selfish views. If you are accosted in the street, park, or any place of public resort in the ordinary way of converse, concerning the topic of the time, or any incidental subject, affect either not to hear, or turn aside. This is a very common method of proceeding with those gentlemen.

In short, take nothing on trust, nor make any acquaintance till assured of their way of life and moral character.

## KIDNAPPERS.

THESE are lazy vagrants of ruined characters, who are employed to trapan ignorant unsuspecting men to enter into the service of the merchants, or in time of war into the army or navy. They haunt night houses, petty ale houses, and the skirts of the town. Their usual method, is to accost a countryman in the common manner of salutation, and if possible inveigle him into a house to drink. If poor John catches at the bait, they then put the liquor about briskly, and if they find it begins to operate, they question him concerning the time of his being in town, the profession he follows, or intends to follow, &c. If he has been bred to any trade, they intimate to him the superiority of a gentleman soldier's life, who is in the road both to fortune and preferment; if of no trade and in quest of a place of service, they assure him they will provide him every requisite for a gentleman without the drudgery of menial life. It is very common at their places of rendezvous, to have two or three fellows attired in sergeants regimentals, who are ready to assure them of their speedy preferment, and that they need not doubt of the same. When he becomes intoxicated, they frequently slip money into his pocket, and in an hour or two afterwards, salute him as a brother soldier; if the poor Countryman discovers any surprize at this salutation, they then apply to their perjured comrades, who are ready to attest his acceptation of bounty money in consideration of inlisting: and to prove it,



it, he is referred to his own feeling. The astonished innocent then puts his hand into his pocket, if capable, finds the money, and is struck with amazement. If the liquor operates according to the base desire of those, who administer it, they save themselves further trouble after they have palmed the money on the unsuspecting man, by conveying him to bed, locking the door of the room, and leaving him to his morning reflections.

The reader may readily conceive the astonishment of the honest countryman, when he awakes in a strange place, finds a cockade in his hat, or the money in his pocket. In vain he expostulates with the merciless myrmidon, who is ready to swear it was an act of his free will, and if he desires to be exempted from the obligation, he must come down something handsome. Thus the poor, harmless, honest man is trapped either into a state of slavery (for in many cases it is no better) or obliged to purchase his deliverance at an extortionate rate.

This is the common method in which these enslavers of the unwary commonly proceed: and such the too general consequence of their vile crafts, and the credulity of inexperienced youth.

To caution you against these seducers of the unthinking, observe that many of them dress in the garb of officers, and stand often at the door of an alehouse in order to accost passers by; some of them appear in other garbs, and their business is to allure you to the house where the principal villain is ready to receive you. The first you may know by his dress, the latter you may



For they sleep not except they have done  
Mischief and their sleep is taken away unless  
they cause some to fall. Prov. 4. 16.





may suspect from his impertinent address; you have therefore only to remember these descriptions, and avoid whatever tally in the least with them.

## G A M B L E R S.

**T**HOUGH these are included, as well as many others we shall mention, under the character of sharpers, we think it necessary to our purpose to consider them separately, in order to discover to our honest readers their various tricks and resources, for the better discovery of them, and their surer escape.

As we before observed, they are versed in most games practised by men of principle for diversion only: we shall point out their various methods of cheating, trapanning, and deluding the unwary, and inexperienced; and begin with the morning diversion of *Tennis*.

This is a manly and active diversion, skill in which is not to be acquired, without considerable practice and expence, and therefore well adapted to the fraudulent purposes of Gamblers.

If a country gentleman, allured by curiosity, goes to the tennis court, gets into the *Dan*, among the gentry that come to bet, and declares his ignorance by asking any questions, the word is immediately given out *that a Squire's come*. Soon after two or three of the most expert in the gang, come up towards him, in order, as they pretend, to let him into the nature of the game. After he has listened to them some time with astonishment, they insinuate to him that 'tis all even and odd, a perfect lottery;

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that

that he may venture his money on either side, for the players then in are as equally matched as possible. They then concert matters so, that perhaps he wins a guinea or two, which induces him to think this is a very fair game, as strangers can win money by it at first sight. The stranger thus allured by success, the match is finished, and another set prepared to step into court, that will be sure to do his business. The by-standers tell him 'tis all equal now too, and that he'll soon see these gentlemen make better sport than the former; they then offer him his choice: if he complies, and they have taken him in as far as the thing will conveniently bare at that time, the sign is given to the players, that they may manage their parts. When the set is over, which is commonly played with the utmost spirit, and with the greatest equality that can be, they then, with some little sham quarrels about adjusting the odds, agree upon another. Here they accost the stranger again, insinuating that though he had the misfortune to take the wrong side last time, 'twas a tight match, and no body could tell who had the best of it till the advantage came. To draw him on still further they again offer him his choice, assuring him they covet not to carry off his money. In this manner the unguarded, deluded country gentleman is drawn on from set to set, and from small bets to large ones, till they have *stuck* him as they call it, and then according to their language, they seldom part with him, till they send him away *sweet and clean*. In most of these matches, there is either a bribed marker, some gentleman

gentleman that has first lost his estate, and then his honour; or some scoundrel that never had estate nor honour, but acquired the game by constant attendance on the courts. There are many in town who live meerly upon the tennis court; and these have such a perfect notion of a set, and so many intricate methods of turning their bets, that a person must be naturally acute, as well as inured to the game by long experience, before he can be an adept in it. Upon the whole, I can honestly assure the country gentleman, that if he chances to fall in among them, they'll cheat him if they can; if they cannot intice him on to bet, they'll endeavour to entice him to some other house or game, and 'tis odds if he leaves them in the same plight of pocket as he found them.

BOWLING, as well as tennis, was formerly a game for few but gentlemen; but is now become too much a trade for cheats and sharpers. If those who live by this game get a stranger to engage with them hand to hand, though the most expert bowler, they'll devise some means to defraud him. Some will cross the ground upon him; others will bawl to him just upon the delivery of his bowl, or confound him with impertinent advice, to make him forget his lengths. Perhaps one of the gang will pretend to have betted on his side, and so amuse him with giving him false ground. If these tricks fail, and the stranger appears a master of the game, there is a person ready to claim a right to the bowls then in hand: this affords them an opportunity to put false ones into his hand, either black-biassed,



pegged or loaded ; or to foster on him some device, that will answer their purpose in the end. By what I have urged concerning the games of Tennis and Bowls, I mean not to dissuade any person from the practice of them, as they are both manly and innocent amusements of themselves; but to caution the unwary from the snares of gamblers, who prostitute them to their fraudulent purposes, by picking the pockets of the honest, but unguarded country gentleman.

To avoid these, never visit a Tennis Court or Bowling-green, without strict enquiry into the company, who ordinarily frequent them; and then it would be best to take a friend with you, who is accustomed to the ways of the town.

COCKFIGHTING, though an ancient custom, and practised by the nobility and gentry of this kingdom, is a scandalous and barbarous diversion, and reflects a disgrace on human nature; permit me, therefore, to dissuade my readers in general from even appearing in such scenes of cruelty, which are ever practised to most notorious villainies, and which are fit for the attendance of *Gamblers* alone.

HORSE-RACING may at first view be supposed within the compass of the country-man's knowledge, but I apprehend I can discover many tricks in that diversion, to which the greater part are utter strangers. It is certain, these are all frequented by a number of London Gamblers, who take the rout from one course to another throughout the kingdom; and have studied the various means of fraud in this branch of sport, as a tradesman does his art or profession. It is  
often

often in these matches pre-concerted, who is to be the winner, by which means thousands are taken in. Gamblers getting together, pretend to make a great buſſle, and to be very ſanguine for this or the other horſe, by which means by-ſtanders are often induced to bet and looſe their money, as they know the winner before they come into the courſe. Sometimes at a fair match, when judgment can only decide the wagers, one of the clan having made a bet, another ſteps up, and the money by conſent of parties is depoſited in his hands. If the match goes in favour of the fair ſportsman, away pikes the *kiddy* with the money. The ſtranger ſtares, the gambler ſwears, but all to no purpoſe; the former muſt put up with the loſs, and the latter ſlinks off with a hypocritical concern for being acceſſary to the money's being depoſited in the hands of a rogue, having taken down the reſidence of the deluded man, and promiſed on detection of the bilk, to give him immediate notice. To inſure yourſelf from this kind of cheat, it is beſt not to make any bets; or only trifling ones, with thoſe of your acquaintance.

BILLIARDS is a genteel ingenious game, and requires much dexterity and practice; but like others is perverted by Gamblers. I venture to affirm, there are more idle fellows live by this kind of diverſion in London, than by any other; and the reaſon is evident; becauſe it is more practiſed. Theſe, by hovering over tables from morning to night, acquire in time a tolerable proficiency in the game; as well as a knowledge of the various frauds practiſed in it. When a ſtran-

ger enters the room, they all, to use their own phrase *flag him*, and can soon, if he speaks concerning the subject, discern if he is a *pigeon*. By a *pigeon* I mean a person, who is either a novice at the game, or an obstinate, conceited fool, who will play with a superior to gratify his own vanity. If they cannot by proposing great odds get the novice to play, they will draw him on to bet, and as at tennis, let him win three or four times, till at length the tables turn upon him and he is decently fleeced of his cash. The obstinate, vain man generally serves their turn better than even the novice. He thinks, because he has been deemed an adept, at a table resorted to by gentlemen and tradesmen for their diversion only, he is a match for any player, and therefore, to spread his fame, visits different tables. But such a one cannot but be a dupe to his own vanity, and a *pigeon* to the Gambler; because the skill of the former is only the result of playing occasionally for his amusement, while that of the latter is the effect of daily practice and study, as his sole livelihood. The country gentleman, when in town, may avoid the snares of Gamblers at the game of Billiards, by declining all betts, and all play with strangers.

**GAMING HOUSES.** Besides the various sports, prostituted to the fraudulent purposes of this infamous clan, there are houses in this town set apart for that vile use. These are receptacles for all sorts of Gamesters, and very convenient nurseries to train up youngsters, and qualify them to play away their estates when they come into their hands. The adepts at these houses pretend  
to



to proceed by mathematical rules, and the doctrine of proportion, and that all things are therefore carried fairly and squarely amongst them; but many of them have been detected in the vilest frauds. Hazard is their chief game; and they have (if Gamblers) a sort of false dice, that are cut and stamped so exactly like the true, and withal marked with the same mark, that it is impossible for strangers, that do not suspect the cheat, to discover it. These the box-keeper has commonly in readiness, to put forth on a sign given. When they have got a gentleman, whom they design to *rook* in among them, while some are sharpening him out of his money within, others are tampering with his servants without, to find out his circumstances and the place of his residence in town. If they find his effects will insure them, and that he is a person, who may be ventured on, as soon as they perceive he has lost his stock, one of the gang calls him aside, and after telling him of his genteel appearance, and generous spirit, to prevent his being exposed, offers him five or ten pieces. If he accepts of the favour, he tells him the custom, in such cases, is to take nine for ten, and to allow him a call upon a good hand. When this is lost too (as it always is in a little time) then they conclude he is fixed. The gentleman who has done him the favour to cheat him of his money invites him to the tavern, (under pretence of civility,) and when they have decoyed him thither, the person that did him the extraordinary service to lend him the ten pieces, is sent for. He in the mean time, has made up a new purse, and is ready to credit him with the  
other

other ten till next morning, if he is disposed to try his luck. If he consents, that likewise is soon lost, and what resource has he then? his worthy friend has no more cash about him; but declares it as his opinion, that since they have won the gentleman's ready money, they ought to give him a cast or two upon honour. With much seeming reluctance, this is complied with. Thus begins the fatal catastrophe; if they think he has too much regard for his reputation, or too much modesty to make use of the statute for his defence, or is unwilling that the town should know he has been a bubble; then they stick him so deep, that he must cut off a limb of his estate to deliver himself from their clutches. I have been particular in defining this species of Gamblers, as they are of all others most injurious to society, both from their deceitful appearance, and their views being directed to country gentlemen of property. This very relation of their infamous proceedings we deem a sufficient caution to avoid them.

## S E T T E R S.

**T**HESE are servile, despicable wretches, capable of every action base and fardid, such as insinuation, flattery, hypocrisy, dissimulation, and whatever may contribute to their flagitious purposes. All the villainies and cheats in nature unite in their abject minds, and they stand ever ready to prosecute advantageous mischief. Their common employ is to watch the motions of young heirs, to draw and trapan them into mean

mean and unequal matches, and impose upon them jilts and whores for women of character and fortune. This they practice with such art and dexterity, that it is almost impossible, if you once fall into their management, to escape from it, without being totally ruined. Those who unfortunately attend to their guileful insinuations, often sully their honour by marrying a harlot ; and render themselves the bye word and laughing stock of their acquaintance ; and the ignominy is brought on them through the means of a new associate, under the hypocritical pretence of singular honesty and sincerity. If these Setters cannot palm a wife upon you, they will endeavour to draw you into *sham projects and chimeras*. If you embark in any of their schemes, you are sure to be entangled ; and not only lose all the ready money you part with, but are in great hazard of being drawn into future bonds, and consequently ruined at last. The whole life of a Setter, is, in few words, a continued scene of deliberate villainy ; his business consists in betraying and trappanning, his sustenance depends upon fraud, and he may be deemed a Snake in the Grass.

## HANGERS ON or SPUNGERS.

**T**HES E are a kind of sottish indolent wretches, and though not so mischievous as the former, are as troublesome and impertinent, and indeed more offensive to a man of sense than either of them. They recommend themselves to superficial persons, by a pretence to a taste for literature, and a knowledge of the humours



mours of the town. By virtue of these qualifications, they think themselves companions for the best gentlemen in the kingdom, and will be sure, upon the smallest invitation, to croud themselves upon them, if they meet with encouragement; and it is much if by degrees they grow not familiar, after that impudent, and at last intolerable. A Spunger's whole stock of entertainment is, generally, a bawdy song or two, a few drunken healths, and half a dozen dull puns; with these he will be perpetually grating your ears, till he has tired your patience, and you are obliged to rid yourself from him, by very rough treatment. The town swarms with these drones; and a country gentleman can hardly set his foot into it, but he is surrounded by them. How unreasonable, I may add, how infamous it is to pick up such loose and profitless persons and make them companions. I have often beheld with surprize, several of them stalking before a country gentleman, and crouding themselves into all company and business with him, sucking and spunging upon him, and, in a literal sense, eating him up alive. These you may know by the description given of them, and if you retain the least ingenuity of temper, you will doubtless treat them with the contempt they deserve.

## MONEY-DROPPERS.

**T**HE rendezvous of these petty cheats, is in the most popular parts of the town, such as Moorfields, Covent Garden, and other public places between Westminster-Hall and Temple-Bar,

Bar, especially the two former ; and it is some odds if a countryman passes through either of them but he is attacked by a party. The manner of this cheat is as follows. To make a compleat set, there must be three of them : one to personate a merchant, the other a country gentleman, and the third a tradesman. When they hit off the cully, one of the gang marches directly before him, and another follows close behind, till they come to a convenient place, where the *mouth*, as they term him, must needs observe. The spark that is in front then drops the guinea : “ Faith (says he turning to the stranger) I have “ found a piece of money here, I think it is a “ guinea.” Then if he that is in the rear, perceives he is insensible of the cheat, up he steps and claims halves. After a little sham squabble between the two cheats, says the first, “ If any “ body has a right to a snack, it is this gentle- “ man who saw me take it up : but to prevent “ disputes, we’ll go all to the tavern and spend “ the odd money, and then divide the remainder “ equally amongst us.” The third still continues at a distance to observe the success of their management, and in what tavern they house him, which is generally one, to which they are accustomed : when he is fixt, then in he comes in a mighty hurry, and pretended confusion for the loss of a bill, which he says, he supposes he dropped just now, in the very room, where they are drinking. To give colour to the fraud, one of the other two conveys a sham bill under the table, which he immediately takes up, and as a testimony of his joy, calls for his pint.

After

After they begin to grow a little warm, up starts one of them, and pretends to have discovered a pack of cards, which he has before placed in some convenient part of the room for his purpose, “ Ha ! (says he) here’s a pack of cards; “ come, I’ll shew you one of the smartest tricks, “ that I was taught by a frenchman a few days “ ago.” Then to possess their Cully of their innocence, they shew several of their ordinary tricks upon the cards. At last, he that is most dexterous, starts the grand trick: on which wagers ensue, and the *mouth* is generally taken in. If this does not pass upon him, they try him with false dice, rug and the leather, or twenty other projects, which they have ready on such occasions. In short, rather than fail they will knock him down, rifle him, or pick his pocket. If you observe the manner in which this cheat is described, you need no caution against it.

## PICK-POCKETS.

**T**HESSE rabble of cheats are such as from their youth have been trained to the base art, which consists of a kind of slight in picking your property from you imperceptibly. Their chief resort is Black boy-alley, the ruinous buildings about Chick-lane and such like places. They attend on publick occasions; such as publick days, processions, extraordinary fights, &c. They generally go in clans of a man, a woman and children, each of whom have their respective departments. In crouds they affect a great desire of passing, and the usual method is for the  
man



man to jostle the person pointed out as the mark, while a boy or girl does the business, and conveys the plunder to a woman, and then makes off frequently under a coach or two if there are any at hand. They also frequent places of public worship, that are generally crowded through fashion or the popularity of a preacher, from which they frequently carry off a good booty ; and indeed embrace every opportunity, when there is likely to be a concourse of people. These are the most difficult of all cheats to guard against in London ; because they are more in number, and often in pursuit of prey. The most effectual method I can prescribe, is to avoid all crowds, which are frequently raised by these means, and if you go to places of publick resort, leave every thing valuable behind you, and always be upon your guard. Ladies in particular should be careful of their watches and tweezers, as these are easily cut from their sides.

## QUACKS.

**T**HESE are arrogant miscreants, that rob thousands, not only of their money but their health. They pretend to a knowledge in physick and surgery, on the meer foundation, perhaps, of having done the menial offices of gentlemen of the faculties ; or perhaps a few receipts from some of their own vile fraternity. They have nothing to recommend them but a consummate effrontery ; and no other means of palming their pestiferous compounds upon the unwary, than puff, groundless assurances, and insolent detraction.

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They have also a convenient back door, and private room, a regular surgeon and physician to attend, and a thousand such like allurements, to entice you to the ruin of your constitution.

Country people are more especially liable to be caught in their snares, from want of acquaintance in town, and if their case is venereal, through shame of divulging it to those with whom they reside: to caution you against these murderers of the constitution, I shall lay before you their general method of treating the unhappy patient in venereal cases particularly.

When the infected person applies, they judge of his circumstances generally by his appearance, and take care to make him come down before they proceed to business. After examination, if they find him a novice, they endeavour to intimidate him, by representing the state of his case to be much worse than it really is, but yet, to extort money, promise, notwithstanding the malignant nature of it, a speedy and effectual cure. Having given him some of their compounds, with directions concerning the application of them, they appoint an interview at a certain time and dismiss him. He then must produce another present, and is dismissed as before. Their common method is to dally with you as long as possible, and then either deceive you with a patched up cure, or more dreadful symptoms, than appeared on your first application, but the former is the most common case, of which there are daily instances in this town. To avoid all connection with these worst of deceivers, apply on all occasions to persons of established repute from a regular education, and fair character. T R A P-

## T R A P P E R S.

**T**HESE carry on their vile purposes by the assistance of a pregnant whore, and the help of some letters and papers, they pick out of your pocket, which gives them an inlet into your affairs. If they are once so fortunate to get a big bellied whore into their confederacy, they carry her about in a kind of triumph among all their Cullies and Novices, every one forsooth, under the notion of being the true father, must subscribe an individual maintenance for the strumpet and the child, or a warrant must be got immediately, and the officers of the parish called in to their assistance to force you to it. If you contest the case with them, the jade is ready to swear it upon you, and all is settled. If they get your papers and letters, these are the credentials for them to commence their villainies; in such cases they pretend that the harlot who rifled you, was an honest woman, and a person of credit, and you must either make satisfaction, and compound the business, or they will expose you first and bring their action against you afterwards. In such circumstances a man is at a loss how to act. If he compounds, he lays himself open to their mercy, and renders himself a bubble and a property for the future. If you contest it with them, you injure your credit, as they will misrepresent you, and abuse you in all companies and upon all occasions; so that this abominable unhappy connection rarely terminates but with your destruction. To escape this embarrassment, you must cautiously avoid petty



brothels, and houses frequented by the lower class of whores, bullies, setters, &c. and shun all converse with such kind of men.

## BULLIES.

**T**HESE are lewd blustering fellows, who having rendered themselves unfit, by a complication of vicious actions, for the society of sober, rational persons, are forced to throw themselves upon bawds and whores, and live upon their contribution. Their rendezvous is among bawds and whores; they eat their bread, and fight their battles; hector and insult their Cullies, gather sometimes their contribution, and occasionally pimp, betray and set. If you unhappily fall into converse with them, they generally entertain you with the dismal relation of the murders and rapes they have committed, the battles they have fought with the officers of the night, the rencounters they have had with a party of bailiffs and their followers, or some such romantic lies and forgeries. If they can palm this stuff upon you for truth, it is much if they draw you not into a quarrel, or some other scrape, and then by a base stratagem bring themselves off, and leave you to shift for yourself. The main stress of a Bully's valour and prowess depends upon his insolence, ignorance, and oaths; and if you once ruffle him effectually, so that he may perceive you know both his business and temper, he will fawn upon you afterwards like a spaniel, and you may use him at your pleasure. If you then threaten to chastize his insolence, he'll tell you, perhaps, that he has a battle to answer

swer for, and therefore is at present restricted from fighting, but when that obligation ceases, woe be to you. I presume none of my country friends will think this a conversable object, who for all his cowardice and ignorance, and though he is so below the character of a man, can betray you into gaming, quarrels, into a bawdy house, and into the company of rogues, thieves, and whores, as well as the wittiest sharper, or stoutest spark of the town. Bullies are of two degrees, those who hover about or belong to petty brothels, and those who live upon whores of fashion. The former are made use of to induce countrymen or strangers into compliance with the extortionate demands of the bawds and whores. If, after you have regaled yourself with a filthy strumpet, and their poisonous liquors, you call to pay, and finding they have charged exorbitantly, scruple their account, one or two of these gentlemen will walk into the room, and advise you to make no disturbance there, but punctually pay what you know you had both called for and received, otherwise they must proceed to compulsive means; if you then comply not, they will not only force from you your property, but tumble you out neck and heels, and probably do you much hurt.

Those bullies who live upon whores of fashion, affect the dress and airs of men of rank and fortune, and by strutting occasionally by the side of a gay lady, add a consequence to her and themselves, and induce the ignorant Cully to think that Miss confers her favours on gentlemen alone, and that he cannot therefore dream of a

favour from her without an adequate return, which in proportion to her splendid appearance, must be considerable. They also frequently call in by appointment, when the lady has a Cully with her, in order to trapan him to cards, and by that means send him away fleeced of his money. Various are the snares they lay for the ignorant and unwary, but those who are warned of them in this plain manner, it is to be hoped, will be able to detect, and resolute enough to shun them.

### KID-LAYERS.

**I**N this cheat there are always two or three sharpers concerned; and it is generally practised at night. One goes on one side of the street, the other on the other; and if they meet a countryman with a portmanteau, box or bundle, they follow him until he rests it. One of them then goes up to him, and says, I'll give you a shilling to carry this letter to that house, because I do not care to go myself, but do not stay; in the mean time they pike off with the booty. If he rests not on the way, one of them will go up to him and ask him where he is going, and if unacquainted with the trick, will gain from him certain intelligence. He then informs his partner, who being genteely dressed, goes forward to the house, and having left his hat with a comrade, comes from the door just as the countryman arrives, and cries, what made you stay so long? then takes the things from him, and bids him go over the way to that house or tavern for some beer or a bottle of wine, and says, bring change for a guinea,



guinea, or I cannot pay you : while the person is gone over, the things are *brushed*, that is, carried off, to the great surprize of the bearer.

If they see a countryman with a bundle asking the way, they will accompany him, pretend to direct him and carry the bundle or box for him, and whilst one takes the person forward, the other gives them the drop, down some yard or alley, having previously agreed where to meet again with the booty ; so the poor ignorant man is left in the lurch.

## D U F F E R S.

**T**H E S E sons of rapine generally ply in publick places, and their usual method of proceeding is as follows. When they see a novice or countryman passing, they beckon to him, and if he listens, inform him, that they have various foreign commodities to dispose of at less than half price, but as they are run, privacy is requisite, and they must therefore beg the favour of him, to step with them to a place convenient for the purpose. If the cheat succeeds thus far, the stranger is conducted through some lane, alley, or bye-path, to an obscure corner provided for their design. When he is entered, and the Duffer begins to bring out his commodities, in comes an accomplice, as pretended, on the same errand, and to carry on the delusion, cheapens and pretends to purchase different articles. Their cargo chiefly consists of handkerchiefs, silk and cotton stockings, remnants of old silk, &c. which being stolen, picked up in rag-fair, or else bad of  
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the kind, and therefore bought at a cheap rate, they impose frequently on the novice as foreign, and thereby extort from him treble the value. If suspecting the cheat, he is tardy, and by his behaviour indicates an unwillingness to deal, they begin to bounce and affect to wonder at his impudence in bringing them thus far to the loss of their time, and perhaps a good customer, for nothing. If this prevails, they threaten, which generally forces the intimidated stranger to deal for something; if he sends for change, he seldom sees his money again, and as they always lead him to intricate holes and alleys, can seldom get any redress. In short, if they once trapan an ignorant person into their clutches, it is rare he escapes, without much cost or vile abuse.

These being described, will be shunned by turning a deaf ear to their solicitations.

## MOCK - AUCTIONS.

**A**UCTIONS, or selling goods of any kind by advance to the highest bidder, are in general delusive, and seldom answer the end of the purchaser, as he frequently obtains his commodity at an exorbitant rate.

The credulity, vanity, and ambition of mankind prompted their institution, to subserve the purposes of those who make a trade of the folly of others. If the best are seldom free from devices, what must we say of those we are about to describe! A more palpable delusion prevails not in London, that seat of fraud. I term them Mock-Auctions, because they are deceits throughout,

out, their advertisements set forth the sale of persons who never existed, and owners that never possessed such property. These Auctioneers are generally fellows, who have foresworn honour and modesty; and being reduced to a crisis of fortune, devise this base expedient for a living.

Having taken a petty shop, they bring together their stock of goods, which, for the most part, are faulty; they then employ three or four infamous puffers of each sex. These puffers are such as they find necessary to promote trade on two accounts, both affecting to purchase, and thereby stimulating strangers to bid, and also by advancing, preventing many commodities from going off under a certain stipulated sum.

Preparations thus made, up mounts Mr. Orator, and the cheat begins by putting up part of his stock.

He harangues, perhaps, on the excellency of a silver watch made by an eminent hand, and put up at the small rate of only two pounds ten shillings.

To carry on the device, and attract the notice of passengers, the watch is handed round the company, tho' consisting of puffers alone; one bids, another advances, and the business is carried on with great spirit.

When the bustle has brought in a few strangers, and they find a novice disposed to bid, they cautiously avoid dallying when a *mouth* is near the mark.

In like manner they proceed in other respects, and as their commodities are ever defective in some point or other, and they employ the meanest hirelings to delude the ignorant to bid their  
utmost



utmost value, and often, much more, they cannot fail of deceiving all who, through inexperience, are allured to become purchasers at so fraudulent a market.

Many novices and countrymen have thought they have bought bargains of this rabble; but time has soon convinced them of a palpable delusion. If my country friends, in the course of a visit to London, are disposed to purchase any commodities it affords: I would advise them to repair to the fair tradesman, who scorns to avail himself of their inexperience, and will treat them on the same terms as the most skilful in the articles, for which they deal; then will they shun fraud, and enjoy a future satisfaction, in having expended their money, on a valuable acquisition.

## WHORES and JILTS.

**S**O many are the instances of misery, consequent on associating with abandoned women, that few in the kingdom are ignorant that such depravity is incident to human nature, and productive of such fatal effects: It may thence, perhaps, be deemed needless to divert your attention from more important subjects by enlarging on this. But when we reflect that notwithstanding the general warning, such is the impetuosity of youthful passion, and such the chicaneries of the vicious, that not only the inexperienced countryman, but many who have long resided in town daily fall victims to the same; this subject of all others claims peculiar regard, and deserves the most minute and elaborate discussion.

To

To treat of these with perspicuity, it will be necessary to range them into divers classes, in doing which I shall invert the common method, and begin with the Hackney Strumpet, and then proceed gradually to the Whore of fashion, referring, at the same time, particularly to those who come under the denomination of Jilts.

By the Hackney Strumpet, I mean the lowest class of Whores, who having been always accustomed to low-life, or else through extravagance, the desertion of former charms, or other incidents, reduced to penury, and therefore ply in the common streets, and endeavour to haul men by force to their disgustful embraces.

These are a miserable compound of whatever can nauseate and pall, lost to every sense of shame, and for the sake of bread devoted to every flagitious purpose, that heated lust can possibly incite.

As their necessity compels them to prostitute their carcases for the smallest consideration, and to the very reptiles of the earth; they are scarcely ever free from a complication of all the loathsome diseases incident to human nature, and are, in fine, a mass hideous even in conception, and rather antidotes than incentives to venery.

The next class are those who live in petty brothels, and infest particularly the Strand, Fleet-street, Ludgate-hill, &c. These are little better than the former, and differ chiefly in dress, being arrayed in the paltry habit of the infamous bawd, whose slaves they are, and by whom they are generally attended, lest, as they term it, they should

should pike off with the Dudds, or carry the Cullies from their shop of iniquity.

As the former, they, for the benefit of an infamous host or hostess, submit to all that can disgrace their sex, or shock a modest ear, as well as poison their health by gorging themselves with pestiferous liquors.

When they allure a person to their baneful residence, they endeavour, by plying him with the very dregs of drink, to deprive him of reason, in order to perpetrate their fraudulent designs.

This done, he is wrought from one degree of passion to another, till he becomes a passive dupe to his doxy, who takes care to avail herself of the opportunity, by making as profitable a Cully of him as possible.

Thus he loses his money, injures his health by drinking the most pernicious liquors, and may think himself lucky, if he escapes nauseous distempers.

The next class we shall mention are those who reside, as they term it, in private lodgings, but in reality only a genteeler sort of bawdy houses. Among these we include those bagnio ladies, who also wear the bawds apparel; but as the bawds are of superior rank to the former, so are the whores in point of appearance and company.

This rank of doxies frequent the Park, the Play, Jelly-houses, W---th---by's, &c. of all which we shall speak hereafter. They are mostly indebted for their tawdry habit to women who furnish ladies with suits, according to their value, at so much *per suit per day*, also with occasional watches and trinkets.

These



These are devoured by landlords, servants, or favourite fellows, who hating industry and lost to sense of honour, meanly live upon the contribution of unfortunate women.

In reality, they are as miserable as the former, and obliged often to submit to as odious means of procuring money.

If they can seduce a stranger, they insinuate to him their superiority to the common class of women of the town, the expence of their lodging, and genteel appearance, and thence infer their title to a much more considerable gratuity for a favour done him.

If you associate with these through the allure-ment of a silk gown, you will be more liable to expences, and equally to diseases, with the former.

The whore of fashion is generally the refuse of a man of rank or fortune, who being left in tolerable plight as to the cloaths and money, supports an appearance of grandeur, resides in a gay part of the town, and reserves herself, for those alone who are capable of amply retaliating her favours.

She has generally a train of followers, is a mighty toast amongst the red coat gentry, her converse is therefore claimed, as an instance of taste, and good breeding.

Her snares are more bewitching than any of the former, as her embraces are certainly more eligible, and consequently create a strong desire of repeating them.

As the smallest of her favours is not dispensed without a considerable acknowledgement, to keep up her acquaintance, in a short course of

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which,

which, so many incidental expences will occur, requires an ample fortune.

Many country gentlemen owe their ruin to an unfortunate connection with these first rate Whores, who having dismembered their estates, and impaired their constitutions, have only to lament the residue of their lives, their want of knowledge to elude the art, or resolution to avoid the temptations of these banes of their future peace of mind.

The JILT, though a little more private and designing, is as lewd and dissolute, and more dangerous than either of the former. They would be counted, forsooth, *virtuous* and religious Whores, who despise common creatures, and affect to blush at a smutty joke.

By a demure look and oily tongue, they work upon the credulous, who, if they obtain the smallest favour, rate it as an extraordinary conquest.

If they vouchsafe to become your occasional bedfellow, they must have a handsome settlement, elegant lodgings, plate, china and all things suitable to a woman of rank. On these considerations she will be faithful to you, or at least promise so to be; but her fidelity will last no longer than you can or will maintain her in her extravagance, with which the obligation on her part will be sure to fail. She can pray, cant, shed crocodile tears, sham a fit as a token of her affection for you, but in your absence will ridicule you to her favourite man, as a foolish, or impotent fellow, and assure him that as soon as she has persuaded you out of the settlement, and  
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the new furniture, she will first affront and then leave you.

If she finds you are a Cully indeed, and will often be imposed upon by her, she has a thousand tricks and artifices to decoy you.

Sometimes she will pretend to pregnancy, and then natural affection must induce you to care for your little one, and allow the mother necessities for a lying-in woman.

She will remind you that Lord A——s, Sir John B——s and colonel D——s Misses lay in, with as much state as the best lady in the kingdom; nay, Mr. F——l, that is but an ordinary citizen, presented his mistress with a new bed, and the furniture of a room, which cost him near two hundred pounds. After this parade, she will insinuate that her merit being equal to that of the best, she has a right to demand the same usage, and therefore will treat any paltry offers with the contempt they deserve. Nay, she will carry her effrontery so far as to tell you, that as cases stand between you and her, you ought to cut off the entail of your estate, and settle a good part of it upon her life, and from her to devolve on the child.

The tricks and devices of a Jilt, are numberless, and can only be paralleled by their ingratitude and inhumanity. Nothing can be more perfidious than these creatures, who after a profusion of favours, on the least remissness, will grow rude and insolent, laugh at, revile, and scorn you, and will become no less their buffoon now, than you had been their bubble before.

To sum up her character, we may, with  
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truth



truth assert, that in a Jilt are comprehended all the vices, follies, and impertinences of her whole sex.

Having thus gone through a brief, but we hope picturesque display of those characters, which, from the nature of their fraudulent pursuits, are more immediately injurious to the male part of our country friends, we proceed to those, which chiefly relate to the female, though some of them will require us to give a caution to both, and particularly the first we shall mention.

## B A W D S.

**T**HE Bawd is a creature infamous and destructive beyond description; a wretch, who being lost to all sense of modesty and humanity, is capable of any action, base and injurious as it may be to society, to subserve her own infamous purposes. The ladies generally keep seraglios of their own, the entrances to which are constantly graced with three or four painted harlots, that are ready to seize the unwary who may pass by them. If they can any ways trapan the inexperienced into their care, as they term it, (and rather than fail, they will haul you in) you must then call for your bottle or bowl, after which a smutty toast is given, to acquaint you with the nature of their occupation. Soon after, in comes the governess in a pretended rage, that the gentleman is not shewn into a better room, and snatching up the candle, desires you to follow, and she'll light you up herself.

When they have got you up stairs, they conclude

clude you are fixt; five or six of her choice whores, therefore, are let loose to prey upon you at discretion. If by any lewd discourse or behaviour, they can entice you into debauchery, the next thing is, which of the ladies you pitch upon, and the terms. There's Miss Jenny is but just come out of the country, and there being little difference between her and a maiden-head, her stated terms are ten shillings, besides a crown for the use of the room. Miss Fanny a good clean girl, and as harmless as a lamb, may be allowed at three half crowns, a rate she never went under. Miss Betsey, Miss Nancy, and sweet Miss Sukey, are all three sound and active girls; but because trading is dead and money is scarce, and you look like a civil gentleman, and the bawd wou'd encourage you to come again, they shall either of them divert you for a crown, allowing another for the room, as usual.

With this edifying language the old mistress of iniquity entertains her guest, whilst her ravenous nymphs are devouring his substance in a beastly manner, and larding their discourse with horrid oaths and blasphemies.

From this description my country reader must be sensible, that such wretches are more to be avoided than a pest-house, being in every respect as contagious.

## A P R O C U R E S S.

**A**S these monsters in iniquity are more particularly the bane of the fair sex, I shall, for the sake of the honest country girl, whose

lot it may be to come up to town; present an account of a notorious one, as verbally related to me by way of letter.

“ Dear Cousin,

OUR pious aunt has frequently warned us of the dangers, to which we must be inevitably exposed in this town. I have been convinced of the truth of her representation, by an incident which threatened my utter ruin, and from which I escaped in an extraordinary manner; the circumstance was as follows.

Returning from a visit to a relation, I was overtaken in Cheapside by an elderly woman of creditable appearance, who having accosted me in a civil manner; asked if I did not come to town, to seek some genteel place. Upon my replying that I did, she informed me of a vacancy, which she was certain would prove agreeable, and to which, as she liked my appearance, she would recommend me.

I expressed my acknowledgement, took directions, and immediately enquired for a certain lady near Soho. When I entered the house, I was shewn into an elegant parlour, where I had not long sat, before the gentlewoman came in, to whom having presented my recommendation, she seemed well pleased, and ordered a servant to bring in a bowl of warm liquor, called negus, consisting of wine, water, orange, &c. which she said was for some friends she expected shortly, but as I was warm with walking, desired me to drink some of it, telling me it was an innocent,  
pleasant



pleasant liquor, and that she always used her waiting maids as herself. Pleased with her condescension, and being warm and thirsty, I drank pretty freely. She then made me sit down by her, assuring me of her aversion to pride, and that when she had no company, she wou'd always treat me in like manner, if I behaved well. She then enquired concerning wages, and was satisfied with my first proposal. Affairs thus settled, I rose up to take my leave, telling her I would wait on her any day the ensuing week, and bring my cloaths with me. Upon this I was not a little surprized to find her insist on my staying that night, as her own maid was gone away, and she had invited several ladies to spend the evening with her. Mindful of my aunt's advice, I peremptorily refused, and could perceive displeasure in her countenance, when she found me resolved. She again plied me with liquor, which began to turn my head, and disorder my stomach. I intreated once more to depart, on promise of returning immediately, which caused my new mistress with sullen voice to declare, I should on no account stir out of the house; and leaving the room in a pet, took the key, in my hearing, out of the door. This circumstance greatly alarmed me, and in the mean time a beautiful girl entered the parlour, elegantly dressed, and every way genteel. Having gazed on me some time with solemn astonishment, she rose from her chair, bolted the door, and breaking into a flood of tears, thus expressed herself.

“ Dear

“ Dear young woman,

I cannot make you sensible of the pain I feel on your account ; and from a desire to serve you, I run the hazard of involving myself in greater misery, if it be possible, than I have yet experienced. But my heart will not suffer me to draw others into the same snare with myself. You are now in a notorious brothel, and if you escape not in a few hours, you are inevitably ruined. I was once as innocent as you now seem to be ; my virtue was as unspotted, and my mind as incorrupt, when I first entered these accursed doors, whither I was sent on an errand for the same cause as brought you to them. I was by force detained all night, as you are designed to be, robbed of my virtue, and fearing the displeasure of my friends for staying without their knowledge, as well as being in the utmost confusion how to proceed, I was obliged to repeat my guilt, and had hardly time to reflect on its fatal consequences. My liberty I implored in vain, and my grief served for the cruel sport of all around me. Indeed, I have been so long confined, that I am ashamed to appear among my friends and acquaintance. In this dreadful situation I have been perplexed with disgustful importunities every day from different men. Thus in a shameful round of guilt and horror have I lingered out ten months, subject to inconceivable miseries. The same fate awaits you ; however, as my wretchedness will scarce admit of addition, I will assist you in what I can, and not, as the in-  
famous

*Engraved for the Cheats of London*



*Here House is the way to Hell, going  
down to the Chamber of Death, Prov. 7. 27.*





famous procuress, contribute to make you as unhappy as myself.

You may imagine the horror with which this sad relation struck me ; I was dumb some time, trembling every joint ; but, recovering a little, I thanked the unhappy fair, and earnestly craved the proffered assistance. The lucky moment soon arrived, when a gentleman coming to the door, she stepped up herself for the key, which the unsuspecting Procuress gave her ; I took the opportunity to run out of the house, in such hurry, that I left my cloak and bonnet behind me.

I am assured you rejoice with me for my deliverance, and desire you would take an opportunity of making it public, that others, warned by the unhappy fate of this injured innocent, may guard against the wiles of our own sex, as well as those of the other. I am,

Yours, affectionately,

M. D.

The chief places of resort for these vilest of their sex, are the play houses, some coffee-houses and public places. They assume various forms, and are capable of acting divers parts. Sometimes they have the most delicate women in the world for you, at other times a fine young creature of about fourteen, a perfect pattern of innocence and modesty, and a pure virgin ; besides, she has one that sings like an angel, another that dances to a miracle, a third that has an incomparable shape and mein, and a fourth that is an absolute

absolute wit, and the only diverting companion of her whole sex.

In short, she has them, or at least pretends she has them, of all sorts and prices, from a guinea, to five, and from five to a hundred; but let me assure you, that if you deal with her for any, you have better luck than most men, if it does not prove a dear bargain, on the making up of your account.

It is unaccountable to think, when they hear of a fine woman, what strange contrivances and devices, what projects and designs they lay to get her into company, and corrupt her. The deluding and ruining both men and women, is their whole business and occupation: nay, not only their own, but the employ of several agents and factors. These are a sort of mercenary wretches, who haunt the town, to try what game of either sex they can find; and if they chance to make their set upon a country gentleman or stranger, they will never forsake the haunt, till the mistress finds some means or other to entangle them. Country girls to avoid their snares, must turn a deaf ear to any who may accost them in the street, or any place whatever. They should likewise be particularly careful, to whom and where they apply for places of servitude, recommendation, &c. as likewise into the characters of those to whom they are recommended.

## WAGGON-HUNTERS.

**T**HE infamous device contained in this title is practised by both sexes, in various manners,



ners, and from different motives. There are always a number of despicable hirelings, in the service of Bawds and Procuresses, who attend at inns, to observe the number and state of the passengers, immediately on their arrival in the country waggons. If they fix on a person, especially of the female sex, whom they think fit for their base purposes, they make it their business to watch her motions ; and if they find her disposed to tarry at the inn, insinuate themselves into converse with her, and if possible, gain some intelligence relating to her future proceedings.

If they succeed in this first point, it furnishes them with an opportunity of contracting an acquaintance with the poor country girl, and next of offering their service to get her employ. The fraud is generally carried on by women, who are capable of all the arts of insinuation, as well as perpetrating the basest designs under a mask of the most disinterested friendship. They will warn the unsuspecting innocent of the dangers to which they are exposed in a strange town, and offer their counsel and direction from a pretended motive of good will.

If their hypocrisy prevails, and their proffered service is accepted, they then recommend the poor girl to some infamous patroness of iniquity; and prostitution and misery too frequently ensue.

I remember an instance of an unhappy fair, who lost her virtue, and commenced her destruction the very day of her arrival in this ensnaring town.

She had hardly alighted, when she was accosted by one of these seducers, under a pretence of having seen her before in the country. The girl

girl expressed her surprize; but the sole abettor of fornication persisted in claiming a knowledge of her, and insisted on her taking a lodging and a bit of mutton with her, till she could provide herself agreeably to her own mind. The girl still expressed much wonder at her; but being at length wrought on by importunity, enforced by some crocodile tears, which she called forth as a testimony of her sincerity, accepted the kind offer, and departed from the inn, under the guidance of this pernicious conductress.

As they were passing together through the streets, by her vile hypocrisy, she insinuated herself into the confidence of the girl, who, relying on her friendship, chearfully followed her, till they arrived at her destructive habitation, in an alley adjoining to Bow-lane. On their entrance, she informed the two young women, whom she had kept in bondage some time, of the extraordinary circumstance of her meeting with her country friend, and of the pleasure she had in being able to entertain her, till she could change her residence, in a manner suitable to her design in coming to town.

Through fear of incurring the displeasure of the old caterpillar, the deceit is carried on, till the approach of night, when a grave citizen enters in consequence of notice sent him by the bawd, who then informs the girl, that she has procured her a wealthy husband, that the nuptials shall be shortly consummated, so that the same bed may hold them both that night.

The astonishment of the deluded fair, on this occasion, is inconceivable; she fell on her knees, let

let fall a flood of tears, and, in the most moving accents, begged the liberty to depart.

The hardened miscreant, unaffected by this scene of woe, plainly told her, that all resistance was vain ; for that though she counterfeited her own interest, it was the duty of a friend, who knew what course would best tend thereunto, to compel to prosecute the same.

She then repeated her importunity to depart, which being again denied, she begged that the affair might be postponed : but all proved unavailable, she was forced into the embraces of the lascivious spoiler of her virtue, but happily did not long survive *its fatal* loss.

There is a species of male Waggon-hunters, whose motives are purely to gratify their libidinous desires.

These are generally debilitated fellows, who tired of the prostitutes of the town, are fond of a fresh country girl, from whom they have no reason to expect injury ; but much to apprehend the most heightened degree of pleasure.

They walk several miles out of London, narrowly observing the passengers of every waggon they meet or overtake. If they see a girl that attracts their fancy, they see the driver, mount, and seat themselves by the object of their desire. They then use every deluding art they are master of, and sometimes prevail to the ruin of the inexperienced, unsuspecting creatures, who admit them to a liberty, which they have reason to repent the remainder of their life.



## INTELLIGENCE-OFFICE.

**T**H E R E is not a more palpable fraud imposed upon the town, than that practised by most of these offices.

They are generally carried on by persons wholly illiterate, or those of ruined fortunes and characters, whose only recommendation is a tolerable coat, a powdered wig, and a consummate effrontery.

Their windows are always filled with fictitious wants, in order to make a parade of business to draw in the unwary for intelligence.

On your entrance the book is opened, your name inserted, your shilling paid, and you become a candidate for a place of considerable profit according to your capacity ; or, if a master, stand entitled to a good servant. If you are desirous of raising money on an estate, or any kind of goods, they will help you to a coger, who shall advance the ready at a trifling interest and moderate premium. In short, they will assist you in the disposal of any incumbrance of estate or effects, in the most genteel and expeditious manner.

They live by bubbling masters and servants, pretending to do that for you, which they never designed ; and promising that, which they are certain they can never effect. Country people, for want of acquaintance in town, have often been made a prey by these voracious animals, after dancing attendance on them every day for several months together, making a thousand applica-  
tions



*Engrav'd for the Cheats of London.*



*The Conjuror Detected*



tions in vain, and being fooled out of some pounds.

But these offices are attended with more destructive effects. They have often been the markets of the Pimp, Bawd, and Procurefs, who have resorted to them, to see what goods came in, and hear where a pretty country girl was to be found, by means of the Register. It might with ease be proved, that some of these gentry have been in fee with the pimping profession, and that many innocent girls owe their ruin to their combined fraud.

Country people of neither sex can with reason propose to themselves any advantage from applying to those offices, whereas they are liable, if connected with them, to be bubbled, cajoled, and trappanned.

## FORTUNE-TELLERS.

**T**H E S E gentry by dint of Astrology, impiously pretend to prescience or knowledge of future events. With respect to astronomical predictions, we have had abundant proofs of their verification; but every sober-thinking man must be convinced of the absurdity, as well as presumption of a short-sighted mortal's claiming a certain knowledge of what shall befall an individual, in the course of a transitory and uncertain life.

Such is the credulity of mankind in general, that many live in this as well as in other countries, by absurdly amusing the curiosity of ignorant men and silly women.

In the countries, the mysterious art is professed and practiced by Gipties, and many have daily recourse to their all-exploring faculty.

In town, the surprizing mystery is arrogated by a few noted professors, whose houses are as much crouded on particular occasions, as a courtier's on a levee day.

Thither repair a crowd of desponding swains, to be assured concerning the affections of their sweet-hearts ; thither flock a train of youthful virgins to learn their future destiny ; thither flies the loser to recover darling property, and thither the fond mother to know the situation of an absent child.

In short, to these repositories of fate daily repair the credulous, the inquisitive, the desponding and the doubtful.

On their entrance, they are shewn into a room set apart for the reception of the customers, as but one at a time can be admitted into the *Sanctum Sanctorum*, where sits this prodigy of science. When you are admitted to an interview, you first compliment him with a present ; which, if you desire minute information, must be in proportion to the importance of the event, and your anxiety concerning it. With solemn aspect he demands the subject matter of your enquiry ; which told him, he pauses some time, then asks you many circumstantial questions, and after another pause, reveals the important secret ; and dismisses the credulous enquirer, with the air of a most profound philosopher.

The minds of these persons are, doubtless, affected according to the predictions of Mr. Infallible ;

Infalible ; which must certainly have an influence on their future conduct. Many have been so elated by assurance of future success, that, grown insolent in their stations of life, they have lost the very means of living.

Others, depressed by ill-fated predictions, have sunk into despair, and neglected the common concerns of their rank and station.

As a proof of human credulity, I shall present the reader with a singular instance of dexterity practiced with as singular success in the black art.

A young gentleman falling in love with the daughter of a wealthy merchant, but being deprived of the consummation of it, through the disagreement of their respective parents ; went on his travels, and among other places came to Hamburgh, where he happened to be in the company of a gentleman, who speaking of his brother at London, said he was lately married to the daughter of Mr.—a merchant in that city.

The gentleman hearing a name mentioned, which was the same with that of his former mistress's father, enquired where the person, who was lately married lived, and being certified of his name and place of abode, sailed for England the first opportunity. On his arrival in London, he went to the house according to the directions given him at Hamburgh, and enquiring for the gentleman, found that he was in the country, and would not return that night. He then enquired for the lady (whom he well knew, though she remembered not him, being much altered by the cutting off his hair and marks of



the small-pox) and pretending to have letters of recommendation from her husband's brother at Hamburgh, desired to be entertained as a servant. The lady replied, that her husband being absent, she could not give him a decisive answer ; but as he had a letter from her brother-in-law, he should be welcome to a night's lodging in the house.

He embraced her offer with much apparent cheerfulness, and immediately entered the house. The lady pretended indisposition, was for going to bed, in order to hurry him away supperless, which he observing, desired a little beer. When the maid was gone to fetch it, he had leisure to look about, and espyed, amongst other things, a cloth laid in an ample manner as if for some banquet, from whence concluding that this preparation could not be for the next day, but that some person was to come in her husband's absence to partake of the dainties ; he determined to watch their motions. Now it proved according to his surmise, this entertainment being provided for the regale of a gallant who had made an assignation for that night.

He accordingly came at the appointed hour, and was received with marks of the most endearing respect. This caused the first lover to regret his hard fate ; nevertheless, he resolved to know the event of the affair.

They had no sooner sat down to their regale, than a knocking was heard at the door, and the maid discovered it to be her master. This put them into such a consternation, that had she not been a woman of ready invention and extraordinary presence of mind, they must have been detected ;

detected ; but thrusting her spark, the provision, table, bottles and all into an adjoining closet, she betook herself to her couch with her prayer book in her hand.

Her husband entering, thought himself happy in a wife, who was constantly at her prayers, and told her, after some little discourse, that he was going to Gravesend, to give orders about the lading of a ship, but had heard she had fallen down to the Nore, and coming off the water, he was hungry and must have something for supper. His virtuous wife told him, that he being abroad, she had prepared nothing. -

The stranger now took an opportunity to shew himself, and being demanded by the master who he was ; the lady informed him, that he was one who had letters of recommendation to be a servant from her brother-in-law at Hamburgh. The old Don then asked him his qualifications.

I have (replied the other) been bred a scholar, and taken some degrees at the university ; I can write a good hand, and understand accounts well ; besides which, during my residence at Oxford, I spent some time in the study of magick, or the *black art*, for which I was expelled. I can perform something wonderful yet without danger, I can discover private enemies, reveal robberies, help right owners to goods stolen or lost, and to ships becalmed procure a wind, that shall bring them to their desired port. I wish, then, said the old gentleman, you could procure me a supper to-night, for my appetite is very keen. With this wish he promised to comply, and the lady fearing the discovery of the intrigue, opposed

posed it violently, till the Sham-Conjuror assured her by a private sign, that he would preserve her honour inviolate; she consented, on condition that she should have nothing to terrify her.

Our magician then began his incantation, *Mephorbus ! Mephorbus ! Mephorbus !* thrice have I invoked thee my familiar, be thou now assistant to my desires, supply whatever a hungry appetite requires.

After making the twelve signs on the Zodiac, and muttering some unintelligible jargon; he paused, and stood as if listening to an invisible speaker; then told them that they might fall to and eat heartily of the meat that was provided for them, which stood upon the table ready furnished in such a closet. When the master of the house had appeased his hunger, he desired to be informed, by what means, all this provision was brought into the closet, as he heard no noise. Sir (says the conjuror) 'twas done by a familiar that I have command of, and you shall see him if you please. By all means (says the other) that I may thank him, for I would according to the old proverb, *give the devil his due*; upon which the stranger renewed his invocations thus, *Mephorbus !* that lurkest here, put on human shape, appear visible to our eyes, and come forth in the likeness of a fine well dressed gentleman, such as may please this lady.

Upon this the young gallant came forth, and the door being opened for him, he passed thro' the room making a bow, and went into the street.

Thus the pretended Conjuror came off with applause



applause on all sides. The master of the house was obliged to him for procuring an elegant repast at a time he wanted it ; the lady for getting rid of her gallant, and the gallant for such a favourable opportunity of escaping from her husband.

Whether this relation be true or fabulous, it is as well authenticated, as the present faculty to which our modern fortune-tellers pretend, notwithstanding, through the credulity and folly of mankind, such infamous cheats are protected and encouraged.

As a further detection of these vile impostors, I shall cite a particular instance, wherein their absurdity appears most glaring.

There now lives in this town a famous wise man, who is a great pretender to the art of Fortune-telling, and has acquired such reputation among the lower class of people, that he has forty or fifty fools to attend him every morning ; some women to know when they shall be married ; some married women, whose husbands are at sea or in foreign plantations, to know if he can give them any tidings concerning their state and circumstances ; some persons to know whether they shall be prosperous in their marriage, voyage, or business in hand, and others about stolen goods and the like. An ingenious married lady having heard much of Mr. Tell-Truth's name, resolved to be determined whether his pretensions were well founded, or his followers were fools. She accordingly applied to the Oracle, and on her approach to the chair of Infallibility, told him, in a submissive manner, that she desired to be informed when providence

dence would bless her with a husband : Having examined her *physiognomy*, the prophet told her the man was yet unknown to her, who would certainly marry her within a few weeks, by whom she should have three children, then bury him, and marry a second time soon after, very much to her advantage as well as satisfaction, and should live happily with him to a great age.

The lady then remonstrating with the impostor on his fallacy, and declaring that she had had a husband nine years, he desired to see her hand once more ; upon a review of which, he cried, I was mistaken, for I now find thou hast a husband, but he is such a very small one, that I can with much difficulty discern his signification in thy palm. Happening to guess right in this particular, the lady burst into laughter, and being well pleased with the cunning of the cheat, went away confirmed in her opinion, that there was nothing in his pretended skill, but meer guesses and subtilty.

A country gentleman, strangely infatuated with an opinion of astrology, had recourse to this famous Planet Juggler, and resolving to venture some money in the lottery, gave him a guinea to assign him a lucky hour for that purpose.

After the impostor had jumbled together a parcel of figures to amaze the querist, he fixed on a certain time, wherein he should be fortunate. The gentleman, pursuant to the Star-groper's directions, bought a ticket, which coming up an hundred pounds, he presented the old fox with ten guineas, and desired he would mention another day in which he might again be fortunate.

The

The bait was greedily swallowed and the day fixed, on which the gentleman purchased ten tickets ; but to his mortification, they all came up blanks ; and his only recourse was, to go back and curse the Philosopher, and his misguiding stars.

There lived a few years ago in the county of Surry a famous Astrologer, who, to deceive people, had several bells placed in a study above stairs, the ropes of which hung down the wall of a dark stair-case ; one signifying lost sheep, another cloaths stolen off the hedge, another strayed or stolen horses, which were the chief things, about which the country people repaired to him.

A butcher having lost some sheep, went to the astrologer's house, and having acquainted the servant with the nature of his business, the sheep-bell was tinkled, upon which the Doctor came down, put on his sur-cap, and conjuring countenance.

He immediately addressed himself to the butcher, with *How now Friend*, I'll warrant you have lost some sheep, and you want me to give you tidings of them. Yes, noble Doctor (says the man.) Come (says the Doctor) walk into my parlour, and I will endeavour to give you satisfaction. The butcher followed, and happened to have a dog with him, which crept unobserved under one of the chairs ; the servant, according to custom, had dressed himself up in a bull's hide, waiting for his summons to appear. This given, he made his appearance, and the dog being of the true breed, seized the Doctor's assistant



assistant, and made him roar like the beast he represented. The conjuror rising in a great passion, cried out, take off your dog, you rogue, take off your dog. The butcher, having discovered the cheat, replied, not I by my troth Doctor, I know he's as good as ever run; let them fight fair, Doctor; if you'll venture your devil, I'll venture my dog. The Doctor at length was glad to pay the man for his sheep, to prevent a further discovery of his notorious frauds.

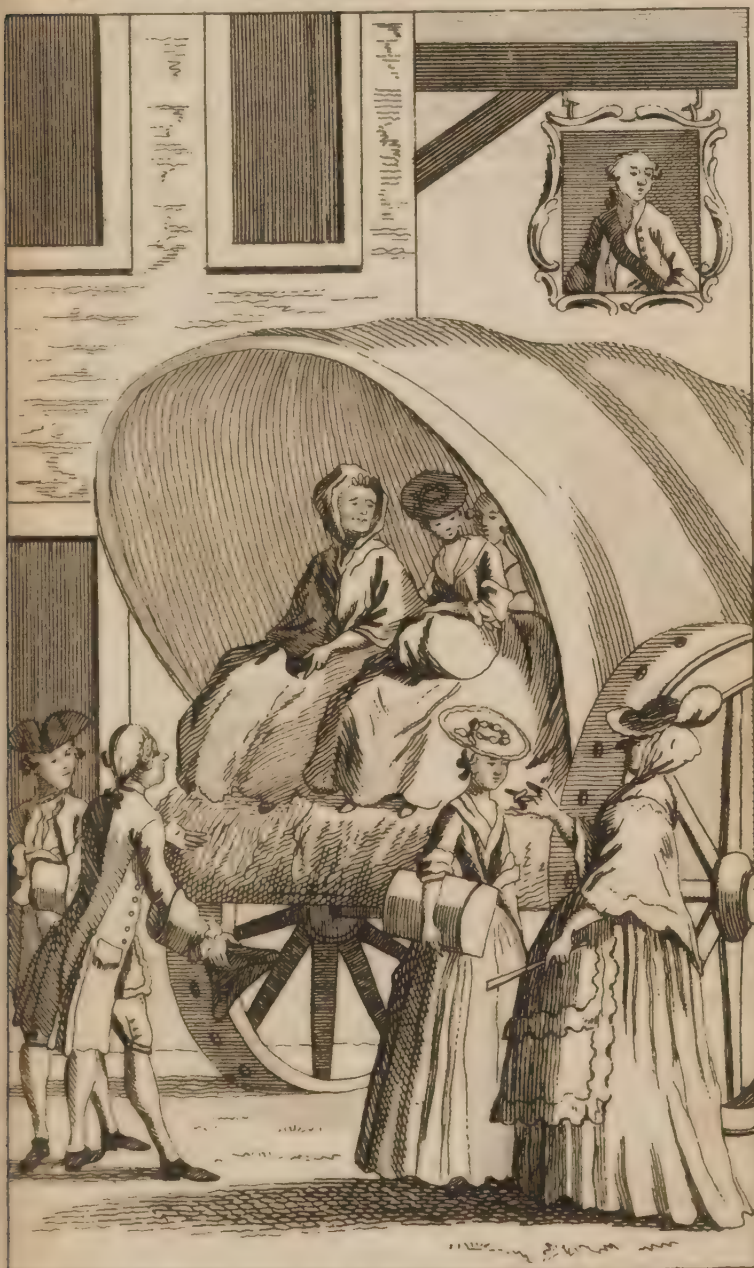
In short, a train of misadventures have attended this diabolical cheat, and many live to rue their credulous regard to it.

I would therefore particularly admonish my country friends, to condemn such arrogant pretenders to an attribute of the deity; to banish all idle and groundless suggestions, and prosecuting the paths of honour and virtue, leave other concerns to an unerring providence.

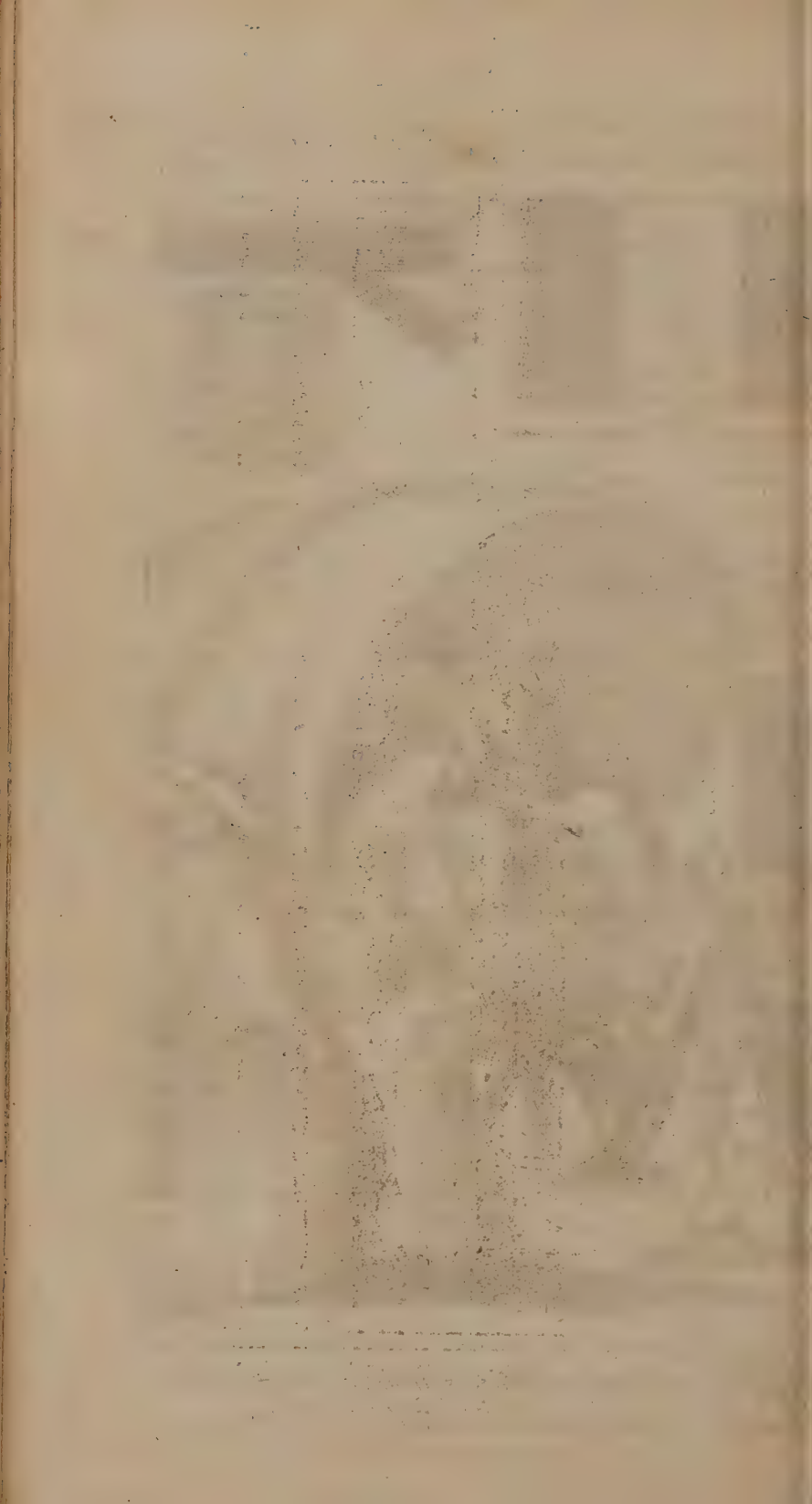
## PRETENDED-FRIENDS.

**B**EFORE I lay open to my country readers the fraud which often lies hid, in feigned pretensions to friendship, it will be necessary to describe some general properties of a Knave or false friend, that they may be upon their guard, and avoid their guileful insinuations.

Though some are of opinion that a Knave may be known by his looks, and that the countenance is an index to the mind; there are Hypocrites, who have art enough to manage their very faces, so as to indicate the strictest honesty, or profound stupidity. A Knave I would distinguish



Keep thee from the Strange Woman, from the  
Sharper which flattereth with her Words. Prov. 7





tinguish from a false Friend, by observing, that those he wrongs are not such as he professes a friendship for ; but he practices upon all whom chance throws in his way ; whereas a treacherous friend, after the most solemn protestations and strongest obligations, breaks through every bond, and evidently discovers a want of conscience, honour, and common honesty : he as much exceeds a Knave in the atrociousness of his conduct, as perjury and treachery are more injurious than a petty cheat. Meer pretensions to friendship are a combination of fraud and deceit of every kind, as well as the product of the meanest cowardice ; for, as by their disguise they obviate the suspicion of the open hearted generous man, they frequently stab him in the dark, with respect to character or property.

In short, in point of strict morality, they differ not from the murderer ; for though they evade the letter of the law, they are guilty of violating every sacred tie, that can connect the interest of mankind, or promote social happiness.

Various are the methods which these Pretenders pursue to insinuate themselves, with the ignorant, or the generous.

They have generally a consummate effrontery, with an affectation of modesty, and can assume a variety of looks to subserve different purposes. They often feign an excessive regard for the interest of another, who no sooner follows their direction, than fatal experience convinces him of his own credulity, and the perfidy of a pretended friend.

In the former course of my life, being un-  
F acquainted

acquainted with the treachery of mankind, I listened to the smooth address, warm protestations, and sanguine counsel of one of this stamp, and becoming remarkably intimate with him, made him acquainted with the particulars of my circumstances, referred to his opinion, in all cases of importance, and at length entered into the closest connections with him. As an indolent disposition induced him to prey upon the unwary, my little property was soon exhausted, and my Pretended Friend not only treated me with the vilest abuse, but had well nigh entangled me in a labyrinth, out of which I could never have extricated myself.

## G O S S I P S.

**T**HIS is the last of the pernicious characters we proposed to display to the view of our readers, as of injurious tendency to all who are influenced by them.

Though at first view these may appear harmless and inoffensive, yet their disposition must divert them from those pursuits on which depends their most important interest.

Gossips I consider as referring to the female sex, and would understand by the term, persons, who, through habit or inclination, are addicted to perpetual chit-chat; and therefore always know more of their neighbour's concern than their own.

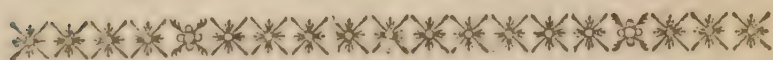
Converse with Gossips always encourages a spirit of detraction, cherishes envy, and foment animosities.

Gossips

Gossips of all ranks, from my lady, to Moll the kitchen maid, delight in idle stories, lying reports, and defamatory accusations.

They are led by their practice to lye, neglect their duty, and squander their time. Which consequence will inevitably render the rich despicable, and the poor destitute; and every considerate person knows, to what trying temptation penury reduces, when characters are stained, or reputation lost.

I mention this foible of tittle-tattle especially, as it abounds in this town, and has, to my certain knowledge, been an insuperable obstacle to the preferment of many country-girls, who, having imbibed it by example, have acquired such qualities as have proved their disgrace if not ruin, and have incurred them the disapprobation of the wise and good. Shun therefore all converse with Gossips, because "Evil communication corrupts good manners".



*General Remarks on the present State  
and Condition of the Town, inter-  
sprersed with admonitions to Country  
persons of both Sexes.*

**L**ONDON has been justly described as a world by itself, in which we may discover more new countries, and surprizing singularities, than in all the universe besides.



It may justly be compared to a large forest of wild beasts, where thousands range about at a venture, are equally savage, and mutually destructive one to another.

It abounds with hurry and impertinence, scramblings and underminings, villainies, cheats, and impostures.

Survey it from the court, to the dunghill, you will see most of its inhabitants appear in mask, even at noon day, affecting to be busy in the service of society, but basely subserving their own passions, as if deceit was a virtue.

Its very pomp, the innumerable equipages, and splendid retinue we see in every corner afford but a melancholy token of an *universal poverty*, and the dismal prospect of crouds of miserable people, either tortured with the agonies of their own guilt and follies ; groaning under the want of the necessaries of life, mad or infatuated by oppression, or desperate from an urgent sense of irretrievable losses sustained in conscience, reputation, or poverty.

In short, if one grand idea could contain a just representation of the motely tribe, which daily exhibits in this scene of action, we could not entertain it without confusion and astonishment. Here are displayed a perfect drama of human life ; a just portrait of human nature, and a striking picture of men and things.

The court is an epitome of this city as well as the world, and abounds with glaring instances of the lawless sway of pride, ambition and avarice.

The

The avenues leading to it are agreeable to the prospect, and all terminate in the same point, honour and self-interest.

At first view the end seems easily attainable, but experience will prove, that before any can arrive at the desired goal, many by-paths must be crossed, many intricate mazes explored, many convictions of right and wrong stifled, and many arts invented and practised.

At Westminster-hall you may hear hideous complaints for want of money and business, much harangue to little purpose, effrontery and froth getting the better of modesty and good sense, and dignified rogues oppressing the helpless but honest

Observe the sticklers for religion, and you will find them inveterately hating, uncharitably censuring each other, and almost every part denouncing anathemas on the rest.

If we lead the countryman from one seat of action to another, it will excite at once his curiosity and surprise. When he beholds the reverend robe of authority, he will be disposed to honour the wearer; but, when he finds it to be a sanction for iniquity, it will incur his contempt.

The park is famous for being the rendezvous of the gay and gallant, who assemble there to see and to be seen, to censure and to be censured; the ladies to shew their finery and the fruits of much pains taken at the toilet, and beaux to expose their fopperies, observe the beauties, and fix on a toast for the approaching evening. Every one here is curious in examining those who pass, and most are malicious as well as censorious.

In

In this place of general concourse, people often join in the company of those whom they either hate or deride, for company is not sought here for the benefit of conversation, but joined to acquire a degree of confidence, and embolden persons against the common restrictions of the place. They talk chiefly to be taken notice of by those who pass by them, for which reason they raise their voices, that those who know them, may not meet without a bow *en passant*. Here ladies walk four or five miles in a morning with all the alacrity imaginable, who at home think it an insupportable fatigue to *journey* from one end of their chamber to another. You may observe a beau reconnoitering the Mall, as much divided in mind as a lady in a lace chamber, in determining which company he shall join, and to avoid the fatal consequence of a wrong choice, use as much precaution as a prudent parent would do in the disposal of a daughter in marriage.

A plain *Irish* Lord shall lead half a dozen laced coats up and down during his pleasure; and another time be as much neglected as an honest man in distress, upon the sight of a ribbon, though every ribbon bears attraction according to its colour.

The park is likewise a resort for usurers, who ply there in quest of young spend-thrifts, with whom they deal in the cent. per cent. way, and many of whom they ease of a third part of their estate by the time it comes into their possession.

Here are also to be seen a number of tawdry misses, who are ambling up and down in quest of a cully, a dinner and a crown; as well as many sharpers,



sharpers, lying in wait for a fool of fortune, or an inexperienced countryman. In short, the Mall exhibits a motely scene of vanity, folly, and knavery ; though it may afford recreation and improvement, to the stranger of either sex, provided they are sufficiently guarded against its snares and intrigues.

I would admonish the country girl to be cautious of frequenting that or any other place of public resort in this town, without proper company.

The play-house, under regulation, is a place of rational entertainment, and pleasing instruction, much of which is lost through the self-interested compliance of the managers, with the vitiated taste of the town ; I call it vitiated, because people in general delight either in the representation of obscenity, or nonsensical operas, farces, &c. which tend to corrupt and enervate the minds of the rising generation.

Here the indolent loll away their precious time, the critic comes to indulge his vanity, the sharper to trapan, the courtesan to allure and decoy, the bawd and procuress to seduce, and beaux and belles to see, be seen, and mutually captivate.

In this epitome of the world, are four classes ; the first is composed of persons of quality, and are seated in the boxes ; though fools and impertinents too often intrude amongst them. The second class, whose province is the pit, consists of citizens and their ladies, wits and critics, sharpers and courtezans ; the third rank occupies the middle gallery, and is composed of mechanics,

chanics, and the midling degree of people ; the fourth and last, comprehend the refuse of the town, and is the seat of noise, impertinence, and confusion.

There are nightly at the play-houses, both in the pit and middle gallery, a number of jilting whores, ready to seduce any person who has the least appearance of a stranger. When such-a-one is seated, one of these ladies comes up to him with a kind of formal impudence, and fixes herself as near him as possible, then begins some impertinent prate, to draw him into conversation with her. If she finds a man fit for her turn, and a true squire, with a subtle and insinuating civility, she leaves him a little, perhaps, to acquaint some hanger-on, that she has a bubble in tow ; some proper measures are then resolved on, and she returns, and will be sure to stick by him to the end of the play, by frequently forcing her discourse to him, and contracting a kind of familiarity with him. When the entertainment is over, she'll take care to march out with him, and by the way, contrive to let him have a glimpse at her painted face.

If this prevails not, and he still seems insensible of her design, she comes to close parley, and desires to know which way he goes, which is always sure to be her's. Here she takes occasion to insinuate, that if he'll call a coach, and set her down, she'll give him a cast another night.

If this succeeds, the business is half done ; and now she has got him to herself, she begins to cajole and flatter, to commend his good nature and civility, but above all, the kindness in  
taking

taking her into his coach ; in consideration of which, if he'll do her the favour to go home with her to her lodgings, she'll do her best to make him amends.

When he arrives there, she'll sift him to know his circumstances, character in life, &c. which, if they answer her expectation, she affects to be so captivated with his deportment, that he must needs dine with her to-morrow, and thus the train is effectually laid, and he is generally taken in for both.

The bawd and procuress also frequently lay wait here for the unwary of both sexes, and various are the arts which they practise, to the injury of the one, and ruin of the other.

There are also a sort of male decoyers in this scene of allurements, whose business it is to inveigle the stranger or countryman into destructive paths.

One of those officious fellows will find some occasion to accost him, and after a little converse, as they seldom want confidence and impudence, and stand little on forms and ceremonies, will ask him, after the play, to accompany him to the tavern, and drink to the health of an honest gentleman of his country, whom he either knows or has heard of. If he can wheedle him thither, the first business is to make him drunk, draw him into gaming, and then rob him of his money.

Various also are the traps laid for the unsuspecting fair in this enchanting place ; to avoid the fatal consequences of being trappanned into which, I advise my country readers of both sexes,



not to be immoderately fond of pleasures, and never to use them without considering their design, and in the company of discreet experienced friends.

London Coffee-houses comprehend a vast variety of characters, and are frequented by good, bad, idle, and insignificant persons.

Here you may find the man of business, the philosopher, the critic, the beau, the sharper, and spunger; some transacting their commercial concerns, some ruminating, some displaying their logical talents, some lolling between sleep and slumber, some looking out for their prey, and some, by their vacant faces, indicating no emotion at all.

Frequenting the coffee-houses in the different parts of the town, will afford a stranger a very good notion of the inhabitants in general, as well as a striking display of the different characters in it; and if he is on his guard, will not prove in the least detrimental to him.

So various are the avocations of this town, and so different the times of attending them, that there are some houses of entertainment open all night as well as day; in order, according to their original design, to accommodate those, whose callings oblige them to attend at the earliest hours.

But, as customs degenerate in time, so these are likewise rendered subservient to base purposes and fraudulent designs.

These houses are mostly frequented by loose, disorderly fellows, who ply there in quest of persons either intoxicated with liquor, or ignorant  
of

of the town, in order to trapan them by various artifices into measures, beneficial to the seducer, and destructive to the seduced. Nothing is more common, than for persons, after they have suffered themselves to be detained beyond their usual hour of departure, to betake themselves to one of these kind of houses ; where they will find a number of chairmen, coachmen, and others, the refuse of mankind, together with some of the same plight as themselves. It is extraordinary, if pretence is not found to quarrel, especially with one who seems to be a countryman, unless you will comply with their exorbitant demands, either in gaming, drinking, or spending your money lavishly on them ; in such cases, the stranger never fails of being foiled ; for, if they cannot conquer him by dint of manhood, they will by numbers. If you chance (as it is very probable) to fall asleep, you may expect to awake without your hat, watch, money, &c. and it will be very difficult for you to obtain indemnity for property lost in so promiscuous a company.

In most of the passages and avenues leading to these night-houses, you will be accosted by the most miserable of all whores, who are either excluded a lodging, through wantonness or poverty ; if you comply not with their desire, they will revile you ; and if you resent their abuse, it is much if you escape the rigorous discipline of some attendant bullies ; whereas compliance will almost certainly be attended with the most pernicious consequences.

To avoid these disasters, the stranger should regularly and punctually comply with the forms  
and

and hours of the house in which he resides, when in town.

Among the rest of the many diversions and amusements contrived by the ingenious and necessitous ; to entertain the rich, the fortunate, and the foolish ; besides plays, operas, pantomines ; cat's operas, puppet-shews, &c. there has been practised amongst us a piece of old French gallantry, called a *masquerade*, an institution, wherein the most abandoned may indulge the excess of luxury and lasciviousness, and wallow in the extravagance of concupiscence.

To the honour of the present day, this extravagance of vice has been rather discountenanced than encouraged of late ; but, as it sometimes is allowed under the disguised title of *an assembly*, and as from experience, I am assured of its baneful influence, especially on strangers ; I think it incumbent on me, to exhibit a concise view of the same, in order to excite the aversion of the reader, to an amusement so repugnant to the laws of reason and virtue.

Fired in my youthful days with the many extravagant representations I had heard of this motley farce, I resolved to be no longer ignorant of a diversion, which had been honoured, as some reported, by the presence of the greatest quality. Accordingly, I communicated my intentions to a few chosen companions, and prevailed upon them, to participate with me of the same expensive folly.

On a certain night we took coach in the city, turned our backs upon the honest part of the town, and hurried away to the long desired scene of delight.

Having.



Having, according to custom, transformed ourselves at one of the shops appointed for the purpose, into such sort of uncouth figures, as might put us on a level with the whimsical mortals, with whom we were about to mix; notwithstanding our vicinity to the assembly-house, we thought proper to croud ourselves into sedan chairs, to avoid the insults of the rabble, who were gathered in great numbers on *important* occasions.

When we arrived at Cupid's new Elysium, and had passed through a lane of soldiers; instead of ready money, we produced our printed tickets, which, by parting with a piece at a time, carried us through three examiner's offices, till we were introduced by the master of the ceremonies into a lofty hall.

I now began to look about me with as much surprise, as a countryman under the doom of St. Paul's, being surrounded with such a variety of objects; as at once perplexed my very eyes.

Having amused myself a-while with the glittering pomp, and astonishing variety that surrounded me, I could not forbear thinking, that all the vices and follies in the universe, were here promiscuously huddled together.

Being at length a little reconciled to the many frightful appearances that were sauntering to and fro to entertain each other, with an inexpressible diversity of paste-board faces, old play-house robes, and other fantastical disguises; I began to examine particulars, and fix in my memory every occurrence that might deserve public notice.

Pursuant to my design, I took several turns; the whole length of the grand assembly-room, which was crouded with a vast variety of uncouth mortals, and appeared on the whole as a medley of all nations, ages, and professions.

While the more sprightly part of the motley assembly were diverting themselves with shaking their heels, others were standing as spectators, to delight their eyes with the fine cuts and capers of the young gentlemen, and the agility and deportment of the nimble-footed ladies, who used every art and device to win hearts.

After several short confabulations with the fair sex, in various forms, and on various subjects, I began to amuse my curiosity; with the numberless throng of spectators that were buzzing about me, and found carried into practice every frantic invention, that could render human nature contemptibly ludicrous.

There were mixed together, kings and peasants, old and young; saints and dæmons, the grave and the gay, ghosts and living forms, and all characters that could compose a jumble of diversity.

Thus variegated, they sallied forth in great numbers into the hazard-room; I followed, and beheld them pursuing their pastime with the utmost decorum; the winners refraining from all extatic transports, and the losers from frantic exclamations; no noise was heard, but the chinking of gold, the rattling of dice, and the stamping of the box.

From the gamesters apartment, I crossed the grand assembly-room, to some more private conveniencies

veniences on the right-hand, where consenting lovers retired out of the crowd to confirm their assignation. I had no sooner entered upon these premises, than I found the seats all occupied by the most amorous part of both sexes. Here all the languishing postures, alluring whispers, and engaging airs, that could possibly kindle the fire of love in the coldest breast, were modestly exercised.

From thence I moved forward till I came to an apartment, where all sorts of rich drams and cordials were plentifully dispensed to both sexes, by three or four female under-strappers, whose sole business was to give their vigilant attendance on this particular occasion.

Hither the trading part of the female quality repair to sharpen their wits, elevate their drooping spirits, and render themselves more acceptable companions to such unfortunate cullies as should happen to engage with them.

Being rather averse to distilled liquors, especially at second-hand, I removed my quarters, and retired through the crowd into one of the boxes, where I might sit at ease, behold the assembly at a distance, and ruminate upon the excellent use, and public benefit of this most glorious convention, where all degrees of persons, either had or might have recourse to play the fool without the danger of being known, and the dishonour of being exposed in some public newspaper.

Here I gazed a considerable time with alternate rage and transport, till upon a signal given at the upper end of the room, most of the company



vanished in a minute, and the spacious place of reception was left empty.

I enquired the cause of this sudden desertion, and the person, to whom I applied, perceiving by my questions I was a stranger to the customs of this honourable assembly, told me, that they were all under ground at present, and busily engaged in regaling themselves.

Advancing to the upper end of the room, my nose was saluted with the smell of various dainties, but I could not yet discover from whence the fumes arose, till looking narrowly about me, at length in an obscure corner on the right-hand, I found a steep pair of stairs, that descended almost perpendicularly into a subterranean cave, where, as I entered, I was environed by a pack of cormorants, contending for the rarest dainties, that nature could produce; as the entertainment was very inadequate to the numerous assembly. With much difficulty I procured a sufficiency to appease the keenness of my appetite, and retired into one of the boxes, where I happened to find a lady much troubled with the hick-up, having made too free with claret and citron water; I began to administer what verbal comfort I could to a distressed lady in her staggering condition; at first she seemed coy, but I soon made her break through her dissembled modesty, and put on her natural temper, as well as her situation would admit.

After some incoherent discourse with her, I enquired her name and lodging, made her fair promises, and a handsome apology for not waiting on her home, and so returned into the crowd  
in

in quest of my companions, whom I soon found, being all like myself, well cloyed with their entertainment.

By this time, which was about five in the morning, the music was silenced, the dancing given over, the company dull, and the lovers eager to enjoy fools paradise: so that, with the rest of my companions, I took a final leave of this expensive piece of mummery; with encreased concern for the prevalence of vice and folly in my native country.

From such assemblies as these, I would dissuade my readers of both sexes, as they tend to give the minds of youth a wrong bias, and divert them from the paths of moral and social virtue.

As the curiosity of country persons is naturally excited by the various things that present themselves in this town, and as many of them may be seen both with amusement and improvement; so there are other scenes, at which he cannot be present, without incurring much danger, if not sustaining great loss both in pocket and constitution.

Covent-Garden, and its purlieus, have many snares, which often entice the inexperienced heated youth to his destruction; and therefore should be entered with great caution and circumspection.

Here are a vast variety of allurements, such as taverns, bagnios, jelly-houses, and lodging-houses: some adapted to the purpose of assignation, and others to that of the consummation of amorous desires.

The jelly-houses have, within these few years, been resorted to by ladies of pleasure, who ply there as cattle at market, or servants at a statute-hall, where you may repair, and chuse such goods as best suit your taste. Those who frequent these houses, have certainly lost that shame and delicacy which are the ornaments of their sex, as well as contracted the most bare-faced effrontery, being capable of exposing themselves to the lewd embraces of an absolute stranger for a trifling consideration. They are likewise the resort of idle fellows, who meanly live on the contribution of prostituted wretches, and are therefore bound to appear there, in order to assert their cause, and fight their battles.

In short, every sober person, who regards his interest or character, will avoid such places as are mostly frequented by persons of indolent dispositions, and tainted morals, and are in the highest sense derogatory to his honour, subversive of his happiness, and repugnant to his interest.

From these houses, the female train, and their abandoned, as well as deluded followers, commonly adjourn to other scenes of debauchery, where there is a nightly rendezvous of whores, pimps, pensioners, bullies and cullies.

The busy scene generally opens about midnight, and closes about four in the morning. Here are discharged volleys of oaths and execrations, ribaldry and nonsense, blasphemy and obscenity; all that can shock a modest ear, offend a serious mind, or disgust a rational observer, is practised without remorse, respect of persons or sex,



sex, or respect to the superiority of the human to the brutal creation.

As the landlords of such houses cannot but be supposed to have lost all sense of honour and justice, the guests cannot reasonably expect fair treatment or good liquors; and indeed, as their view of frequenting them, proceeds from different causes, they are generally careless about the quality or quantity of what they gorge, to the destruction of their health, and the profit of the most abandoned of mankind.

The unguarded youth not only injures his constitution, through means of intemperance, by frequenting such houses, but also too often contracts such acquaintance, as prove an eternal barrier to his future success,

I have an intimate friend who lives a melancholy proof of the truth of this remark, and dates his ruin from the very day he entered one of these enchanting, but destructive places.

He was the only son of an indulgent mother, but after a good education at school, being apprenticed by his guardians to a menial trade, he thought proper to relinquish that, and apply to academical studies, to qualify himself for a more important station in life.

These he prosecuted with success some years, during which he lived happy in himself, respected by his friends, and endeared to a fond parent.

At length, on the close of a summer's evening, he chanced to pass through the Strand, and observed a vast ingress and egress of divers of each

each sex, at a certain house, his curiosity prompted him to enter.

Here he beheld a motely tribe of beings, with various countenances, gestures, and employs. Some inflamed with liquor, were denouncing horrid judgment on themselves and others; some immersed in senseless stupidity, appeared as beings without reflection; some were encountering with the most profligate whores, in the most indecent discourse, and others making assignations for amorous dalliance.

These strange scenes induced him to sit down, call for his bowl, and stay to the full extent of his usual time from his lodging.

In a few days, urged by the same fatal curiosity, he repaired to the same fatal house, where an unhappy female attracted his notice, and captivated his mind.

Determined however to maintain his reputation, she in vain attempted to allure him to her embraces several nights after each other; being not only sensible of the suspicion he should incur, but also of the danger inevitably resulting from such intercourse with a prostitute.

Nevertheless he kept up a correspondence, visited her at her apartments, and came once or twice a week in quest of her to this house. As he was tied to an hour, and therefore obliged to quit these scenes which now became agreeable to him, he began to repine at his situation in life, which laid such restraint on his conduct, and determined to allow himself a greater scope of pleasure.

*Engraved for the Cheats of London*



*As a dog returneth to his Vomit; so a fool  
returneth to his Folly. Prov. 26. 11*





He was then on the approach to a pretty fortune bequeathed him by an industrious father, who died in his infancy, and he therefore began to indulge the prospect of enhanced pleasure without restriction.

As resorting such places commonly produce intemperance, he frequently went home much disguised in liquor, which was at length reported to his worthy patron, who sent for, gently reprov'd and dismissed him, with an assurance, that on promise of reformation, past conduct should be buried in oblivion.

This generous behaviour determined him to abandon that part of the town, which had already proved so injurious to his character; and he again pursued his studies with renewed alacrity.

But alas! the impetuosity of passion and allurements of vice soon conquered the resolutions of reason and virtue, and my unfortunate friend returned to his former course.

His old companions in debauchery welcomed him on his arrival, laughed at his foolish deference to friends, and took every means to attach him to their pernicious practices.

Wholly devoted to vice and folly, and tempted by the little fortune to fall to him within a month, without the knowledge of his friends or assigning the least cause, he quitted his studies, and betook himself to a life of unrestrained pleasure.

His afflicted parent, and sincere friends importunately solicited his return; but deaf to their intreaties, he rather accelerated his career to misery

fery and poverty, nor allowed himself a pause in his progress towards the goal of ruin.

Having received his fortune, much of which was exhausted by debts previously contracted on various accounts, he became not only a dupe to his own passions, but to those sharpers which in this town are always ready to trapan the unthinking youth. The circle of his acquaintance with both sexes now enlarged, and his expences in proportion, insomuch, that within the compass of a year his ready cash was expended and he was obliged to have recourse to mortgage on his little estate, and from thence to absolute sale; so that in about three years he was disencumbered of the whole. His former mistresses now eyed him with reserve, his former companions affected indifference, and many with whom he had passed hours of jollity, had forgotten both his name and face. Thus bereft of his fortune and abandoned by his pretended friends, he strolled from place to place, and often sauntered to the park to count trees for a dinner. Being at last reduced to a state of absolute want, like the prodigal son, he returned to his doating parent, who received him with all the warmth of maternal affection, arrayed him in decent apparel, and furnished him with every requisite for the retrieval of his former situation.

Affected by this indulgent treatment, he promised submissively to apply to his injured patron, and if he could obtain his favour, resume his regular course of life.

But see the insatuation of vice and folly! notwithstanding his experience of the fatal consequences



sequences of a dissolution of morals, not only in the loss of reputation, but griping penury itself; he had no sooner the least power of tasting the baleful vices, than his impetuous desires prompted him to the pursuit of them.

As his finances were but small, he could only see enough to enflame his desires, which as he could not accomplish, he at length determined on a foreign exploit, and accordingly embarked in a privateer, amongst the very refuse of mankind.

Here he found some companions, who owed their situation to the same cause with himself, and daily joined with him in lamenting the day they were seduced to enter the habitation or resort of harlots.

As he had now much time for reflection, he frequently ruminated on his past life, the consequence of folly and extravagance, and the abject state to which he had reduced himself.

Happily he escaped the loss of life and limb, and once more returned to his native country, and the caresses of the most indulgent of parents.

Nor were his inclinations to vicious pursuits abated by a former series of hardships and dangers, as he discovered in many instances the same desires as before, though the means for accomplishing them were wanting, so that his abstinence was no virtue.

At length his unhappy mother, through disappointment in her expectations of the conduct and fate of her son, added to an asthmatic disorder, closed the scene of life, and left my unhappy

happy friend to roam at large through the dreary maze of an inhospitable world.

Time and misfortunes at length brought him to serious reflection, and though, through much pain and industry, he procures a subsistence for himself and little family, he passes not a day without repining at his former unhappy fate, resulting from an incident apparently trifling, but productive of a constant source of disquiet.

Since these and worse effects flow from the resort of such houses, we have been somewhat prolix, in reciting a case, which our country readers may rely on as matter of fact, and which, we hope, will effectually dissuade many from the prosecution of such destructive measures.

The stranger cannot pass any of the streets of this scene of luxury, without being exposed to the temptation of lewd women, either in passing, or from the windows. Through the force of white and red paint, and the glaring of a few tawdry rags, they, some of them, appear at a distance, desirable objects, and have thereby allured to their embraces many innocent inexperienced countrymen, who have had reason to rue their unfortunate captivity.

Besides these dangers, to which the honest countryman must be exposed from this quarter of the town, he will likewise, at night, be liable to the insults of banditti, whose business it is to seek occasion to quarrel, abuse, and thereby draw him before a justice, and extort money by falsely swearing he was aggressor.

The very officers of justice have availed themselves of the ignorance and timidity of a stranger, whom

whom they have apprehended, carried to a round-house, and obliged to see them, to obtain dismissal, though detained contrary to all law of reason or the nation.

In short, so numerous and various are the intrigues, frauds and allurements practised, as well as the insults, abuses and villainies committed on the person of a strange countryman ; that when on this enchanting ground, we would admonish him to tread with the utmost precaution, to maintain a constant guard on his passions and temper, and not to be extravagantly fond of any amusement, or object that may present itself to his notice and observation.

Having thus led our readers through a dismal wilderness, and shewn them what kind of wild beasts range therein, as well as related many occurrences and customs, we presume worthy the attention of the stranger and countryman, we shall instance some of the prevailing follies of the times, and submit the absurdity of them to the bar of reason, and decision of manly sense.

With respect to garb or dress, many are so ridiculously extravagant, that this single article engrosses most of their time, money, and thoughts. Persons of quality and refined taste, dress three or four times a-day, and are so fond of exotic fopperies, that not only most trades in the state, but most nations in the world are concerned in their equipage. There are also in this town, a kind of butter-fly sparks, or insignificant insects, that flutter about a year or two, and are afterwards forced to creep into holes and corners, in a garb as contemptible, wretch-



ed and loathsome, as the former was splendid, fulsome and ridiculous.

This practice, vain and foolish as it is, has been adopted by numbers, to their utter ruin, who having expended their fortunes in a few gaudy trappings, in order to make a figure (as they term it) become the contempt and ridicule of the whole town. There is also an Epicurean sect, a sort of nice palated sparks, who can relish nothing but dainties, and despising the unadulterated productions of their native clime, as common fare, affect a taste for studied mixtures, costly sauces, and foreign delicacies.

These have frequently indulged their luxuriance of taste with delicious morsels, till they have wanted food convenient for the support of nature.

Others in this town, affect the character of being generous and sociable, by making costly treats and entertainments; I have heard a fool boast of having expended a hundred pound on an evening's entertainment for a few friends, who, after all, only contemned and ridiculed his prodigality.

The extremity of this folly has frequently appeared in the expences of giddy youth on jilts and courtezans, whom they have indulged in every whim of dress, and caprice of taste, that pride can suggest, or luxury excite.

Such persons are beneath even pity, and we cannot, when reduced, but seem to grudge them the very husks to which their penury confines them, and wish them such a fate, as might deter

ter the rest of mankind from their inadvertent conduct.

By these reflections, I would not inculcate mean and narrow principles, as I detest all moroseness of temper and singularity of behaviour, and heartily recommend a decent garb, and genteel, friendly entertainments, upon proper occasions, as equally necessary and commendable in a gentleman; but to prevent country people of property from being hurried into a compliance with the foolish customs which prevail in this town, to the disgrace and impoverishing of those who practise them.

Of all the follies and fallacies which reign in London, none is more glaring than *affectation*. By this term, I understand, according to the definition of a modern dramatic writer, endeavouring to impose ourselves on the world, for what we are not; or striving to be, what we are persuaded we cannot. There is not in human life so trite a character as this; as every man entertains a good opinion of himself more highly than he ought, so many are prompted by dress, or some extra mark, to give themselves an air of consequence, which they vainly imagine intitles them to a general esteem.

In promiscuous companies, I have frequently known a sharper taken for a gentleman, and the master of a puppet-show for a man of sense; so deluded are most people by appearance.

A great wig, and significant strut, have long composed a physician; and the apothecaries, and very quacks follow their example. Divinity, with respect to the garb of many of its professors,

seems to be reversed ; our young clergy wearing smart curling locks, and prim stocks, more becoming tavern waiters, than teachers of the people.

This folly of affectation prevails in London more particularly, because, through its vast extent, and the multitude of its inhabitants, persons can carry on a disguise with more plausibility, than in towns where the character and circumstances of individuals are minutely enquired into. Hence it comes to pass, that so many vain, unthinking fops, have maintained a splendid appearance, the title of esquire, and its attendant dignities for a few months, and then sneaked from the bailiff's clutches, and bilked all, on whose credulity they could impose by a little outside shew and gaudy parade.

I therefore esteem it essential to my design, to admonish country persons of both sexes, to beware of this delusion of affectation, nor judge of any person here by appearance. Though most by affectation gratify their pride, many subserve their interest, indeed wholly live by it. These are painted whores, who, when bereft of their disguise, display a figure odious to the beholder.

The simplicity of strangers unaccustomed to foppery, induces them frequently to catch at the bait laid for them by the ensnaring of both sexes. Plain John is liable to be deluded by the pomp of a train, or glare of a necklace, nor is honest Sue always proof against a laced coat, and gaudy sword knot.

On the other hand, villains frequently perpetrate acts of injustice, not only under the mask  
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of simplicity, both in dress and behaviour, but even under the very sanction of religion. We have here many persons scrupulously punctual in the forms and ceremonies of religion; great church-goers, would not swear an oath on any account, (qualities good in themselves) but follow them into the world, weigh their actions in the balance of justice, bring them to the standard of right and wrong, and you will find their religion mere affectation, their devotion an absolute lie, and their preciseness downright hypocrisy.

Such is the prevalence of infidelity on the one hand, and fanaticism on the other, that with all our religion, more sects of which there never were, than at this time, common honesty seems banished, and God-like benevolence to have deserted every breast.

In a word, fair as things may appear to a superficial eye, this epitome of the world, called London, will afford the minute inspector but a dismal scene, in which he will discover power oppressing merit, riches over-balancing honesty, and affectation trampling on simplicity.

Such is the prevalence of power and parade, that merit of character is with great difficulty ascertained, especially in a place where disguise and artifice are daily practised. Writers may be possessed of genius in an equal degree, yet appear in different lights. Slender virtues may be highly esteemed, because they appear in certain places, or before certain persons. Many exercise exalted virtues in obscurity. I remember a worthy country gentleman, painted at court in the black-

est colours, who, at the same time, was extremely beloved in the country. The reason was, that the country people among whom he chiefly resided, had no correspondence at court, and therefore his reputation extended no farther than his parish ; whereas some potent persons, against whose oppressions he defended the common people, were intimate with principals at the capital. On the other hand, to verify our remark, concerning characters, we find many who are generally hated in their own country, pass for angels in the capital.

If we would really enquire into a man's character, we should repair to the place of his abode, and there procure information, not from his superiors on the spot, but from his neighbours of equal rank, with whom he has lived in his own natural manner. Daily experience shews how wretchedly we are imposed upon by the attestations of people authorised to characterize another man's virtue's or abilities, and that we, therefore, can only have a man's true character from those with whom he lives free and unreserved.

Another very prevailing folly in this town, is an implicit compliance with what is called taste and fashion. Though taste in the abstract, may appear but a trivial thing, yet whoever examines history and mankind, will find it a main spring of business and action.

Concerning taste, we may form a right judgment from children, who generally delight in milk and fruits which nature supplies in plenty; whence it may be inferred, there is a native agreeableness in such things. Most grown persons

sons are so debauched by custom, fashion, and fancy, that they rather esteem things according to acquired prejudice and habit, than according to genuine goodness. We are often, by the scarcity and price of things, induced to despise what nature has marked for good, and produced in abundance. We contract an aversion to things obtainable with ease or small expence, and cultivate a fondness for worse that are dear, and obtained with difficulty. Tea is more fashionable than milk, because of the difference of price. Vegetable productions of China, and other Eastern countries, taste fine ; for the costs of the long voyage to procure it them ; and men generally fancy dear things must be good. Nor false taste less glaring in this town, in dress and behaviour.

If the Prince was to walk upon stilts, the courtiers would follow him, and maintain the practice to be genteel and rational. Men accommodate themselves to the use of bad tasted things, and troublesome habits, in order to be distinguished from the vulgar.

Surely nature and reason have prescribed the rule of medium, which directs a just value on every thing, and forbids an immoderate attachment to any. Decency declares it absurd in the fair sex, by short garments, to shew their very knees, and œconomy exclaims against trailing the streets with rich brocades. It is equally preposterous in the other sex, to wear garments which hardly cover their posteriors, or such as scarcely discover their legs.



By these brief remarks on taste; I mean not to encourage a ridiculous affectation of singularity, as that of the two follies is the worst; but to prevent an implicit compliance with every ridiculous custom or opinion, that may be broached by any fool of quality, capricious coxcomb, or flirting coquette.

The last folly, incident to this town, I shall mention, is caballing, and embarking with parties and factions. If a man reflects seriously on the fallibility of human nature, the effect of prejudice, and bias of interest, he will not immaturely decide in favour of any opinion, sect, or party. A man, over sanguine in this respect, indicates a want of understanding, or incurs a suspicion of venality. Besides, a person overzealous in promoting the cause of a party, is generally negligent in those affairs which immediately relate to himself, and to which, if he attends not, he will be unable to discharge many relative to duties incumbent upon him. I have known many worthy men ruined by cabals and factions, who, by serving parties, both with their time and property, have destroyed their connections and credit, and at last been treated with the basest ingratitude.

Such cabals are in the highest degree injurious to commerce, friendship, and society: as they evidently tend to inflame the mind, destroy good faith between men, and kindle discord in those breasts, which were before the seats of perfect harmony. In short, party connections can never improve the mind, nor obtain any solid good,  
while

while they generally incur much detriment both in point of temper and property.

Having thus exhibited a concise view of the men and things of the town, I presume it will not be foreign to our purpose, to add a few general directions to such persons as may be disposed to visit it, either for amusement or employ; as much caution is necessary, not only on their arrival, but also previous to their departure from the country.

With respect to the man of fortune, his most important concern, is the disposal of his estate. This is the grand basis upon which all the rest of his affairs must move, so that unless that is left to the conduct of a skilful and honest person, whatever success he may have in town, it will not compensate for the loss he must inevitably sustain.

To settle this important affair, with most ease and convenience to himself, least trouble to his friends and servants, and greatest satisfaction and advantage to his tenants and neighbours, it will be necessary, in the first place, that he be his own auditor, take a monthly survey of his respective accounts, ballance his expences with his receipts, and proportion both according to the amount of his revenue. Some of our gentry look upon this as a reflection upon their characters, and imagine that the oversight of their estates is not only a tedious employ, but a derogation from their dignity; but to the man of real honour and conscience, it is rather a diversion, and advantageous method of disposing of  
those

those spare hours, which, unoccupied, would be burthenfome, inconvenient, or expenfive.

His next concern muft be, to procure, if poffible, an honeft ingenious man for a fteward, one that will neither be tempted by avarice or intereft, nor feduc'd by neceffity to betray his concerns, or embezzle his effects. He fhould be neither morofe in temper, nor rigorous to his tenants ; yet watchful to keep them within the moderate bounds of their leases and agreements ; and above all, careful to refrain them from running too far in arrears, which commonly terminates, not only in the ruin of themfelves, but the lofs and inconvenience of the landlord.

A fteward fhould be remarkable for difcreet government of himfelf, and his own affairs ; he fhould be a tolerable mafter of accounts, and well verfed in the art of agriculture, and the method of country-dealing : but above all, he fhould be divested of selfishnefs and mercenary defigns, and actuated by principles of juftice, humanity, and gratitude.

A provident houfe-keeper will alfo be requifite, who fhould be difcreet, faithful, affable, mo-  
 deft, meek, and compassionate : and free from the little vanities of goffiping and tale-bearing, too common to her fex. Her mafter's houfe fhould be her only empire, and the peaceable government of it her higheft ambition : fhe fhould have have no ends, nor bufinefs of her own to divert her mind, but be constantly vigilant in obferving and reftaining the irregularities of the family, not more by her advice and reproof, than the precedent of her decency and moderation. If  
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the country gentleman could thus furnish himself, (which indeed will be very difficult,) he might then solace himself with the consideration, that when he had tired himself with the vices and follies of the town, his affairs at home being in a good situation, he could return and repose himself with satisfaction out of the reach of its noise and hurry.

The next thing worthy the consideration of the country gentleman, is to manage himself with advantage and security when he comes to town. He has been shewn already the rocks he is most liable to split-upon, and the vices, follies, and dangers, to which he will be perpetually exposed as a gentleman and a stranger. I shall therefore wave those already mentioned, and offer him a few admonitions, which I hope will neither be unacceptable or unprofitable. The first point of advice I would enforce, is not to hurry himself into the society of strangers. This we have repeated again and again; as the generality of the mischiefs of this town derive their origin from that source. I also again admonish him not to take men and things upon trust, but first to weigh them soberly and deliberately, to bring them home to the tribunal of reason, conscience, and experience, before he passes judgment, or makes option. This town is mostly swayed by falshood and contradiction, or by faction and interest, so that if he takes things nakedly, without comparing them with the rules of truth and probability, he will be subject to endless falshoods and impostures.

I will

I would also remind him of his character, his birth, education, and estate, and if he considers himself as a gentleman, not nominal, but real, he will doubtless deport himself consistently with that title, and regulate his behaviour by the unerring maxims of reason and justice.

With respect to ladies of fortune, as it is customary for them to receive good tuition in the country, they may form a tolerable idea of the nature of this town: suffice it therefore to admonish them not to value the fopperies and pleasures of it, in an inordinate degree, but to beware of the devices and intrigues of rakes, fortune-hunters, &c.

Persons of inferior rank of both sexes, will be more liable to the fallacies of an ensnaring town, as from their situation in life, they are deprived of that knowledge of it which results from reading and converse; but it is presumed, that a precise adherence to the rules we have laid down, and observations of the various arts, cheats, and tricks we have detected and exposed, will prevent their falling a prey to the same, and enable them to render a town visit both amusing and profitable.

We would especially dissuade country persons of all ranks, from harbouring the least desire of quitting a rural residence, for the noise, hurry, and confusion of a city life.

Any person of reflection, cannot behold, without much concern, so many stately buildings mouldering into ruin in divers parts of this kingdom for want of inhabitants. If

If the rural inhabitants urge diversions as a plea for preferring a town-residence, we may certainly, with justice reply, that hunting, fishing, fowling, and the like, are noble and manly recreations, and do not cloy nor satiate, but are still improving and growing daily more delightful. They are not spent or wasted by fruition as ours are, for the more they are pursued, the more they entertain and gratify.

Besides, it will be necessary to consider the expences which inevitably result from the pursuit of the pleasures of this town, whereas those of the country are free and open, and derived, as it were, from the general grant of nature. Add to this, that all the pleasures of the town may be run through in the narrow space of two or three days; which done, you do but traverse the same foolish road, and tread the same stage over and over again, and what can be more ungrateful to an ingenious, enquiring mind, than the dull repetition of the same scenes. If these remarks are weighed in the ballance of sober reason, their salutary effects need not be doubted.

If education is the pretended motive, I would ask what kind of education is sought after in London.

A genteel and liberal one may be obtained in the country, and every necessary qualification for a tradesman or a gentleman.

Those persons who hope to improve in every useful or ornamental branch of education, should embrace the precious opportunities of quiet and sedateness, which cannot be expected in a noisy town, the very bane of study and meditation. In



the country, all things are generally calm and still; there you have fewer cares to bend and torment the mind, and fewer dangers to affright and discompose you. There are no hurrysings nor scramblings, no countermining of one another; but all the busy actors are innocently and industriously proceeding in their proper stations, and, as far almost as human nature is capable of, hushed into perfect repose.

Surely none of my country friends can think of these superior advantages, and retain their giddy resolution of quitting them all for the sake of a noisy paltry city.

I am far from advising any to a recluse life: I grant that music, dancing, fencing and the like, are very proper amusements to pass away an idle interval; but I would not have these preferred to such pursuits as tend to aggrandize the mind, and enoble the soul.

There is but one thing within the compass of my knowledge, by which this town can improve their education; I mean in point of conversation. If you was well settled both in judgment and principle, if you could run through the different societies and humours of it, without being infected or seduced by them, and withal, could extract from them some good morals and useful observations, these considerations might justify a visit to London; but to leave business to the management of servants, and your house and gardens to go to ruin; come up hither to waste your time and money, meerly under pretence of better company, diversion, and education, than your own country can afford you, is  
such

such a mixture of folly and madnels, as cannot fail to expose you to pity, scorn and wonder.

If the desire of company prompts any to exchange a country for a city life, let me assure them, from long experience, they'll soon find themselves deceived in their expectations. They may form what chimerical notions they please, concerning the men and things of the town, but if they fondly imagine, that it exceeds the country in these qualities, which are the ornaments of human nature, they are greatly mistaken. It, in reality, is so corrupt and degenerate, and so exceedingly over-run with vice and folly, that little improvement can be expected from the society found in it. There are, indeed, as in all places, some persons whose company and converse, tend to the edification of their associates ; but these are so rare, and withal so hard to be discerned, and come at by a stranger, that much time may be spent in fruitless search. I can assure him, for my own part, that after many years unavoidable residence in town, the expence of much money, and loss of much time; there are very few within the circle of my acquaintance on whom I can confidently rely, and with whom I can familiarly converse.

The general topics of most companies here are of a frothy insignificant nature, neither tending to amusement nor instruction ; though almost every body claims a knowledge of politics, and our very sailors to arraign the measures of the state. I am sorry to say, that our companions in general, abound with ignorance and impertinence, ribaldry and nonsense, noise and vanity,

and therefore, no reasonable person can propose to himself any advantage from frequenting them.

These remarks, though apparently harsh, are literally true; therefore, if the countryman comes hither, he must expect to find men and things as they are, and not as he would have them; and if he has sense enough to despise them, he will incur the character of a proud, ill-natured, unmannerly country fellow,

Now, upon the whole, if the advantages of a country life are set in opposition to those of town residence, respecting the health of the body, and the improvement of the mind; it only remains to determine which on a solid foundation is most eligible? with respect to health, it will not admit of controversy, not only as it is clear air, and the salutary exhalations of the earth are productive of the same, but also, as in general, persons in the country are not so liable to debaucheries of every kind, as they are in a depraved town, because whatever may be their inclination, there are not so many various precedents.

With respect to the improvement of the mind, it is undeniably evident, that indisposition of body always affects the mental faculties, impedes their exertion, and casts a gloom over thought in general; whereas health expands the reasoning powers, prompts their exercise, and accelerates invention.

Noise and hurry, also attend to perplex the mind, banish ideas, and confound study; whereas solitude and retirement unbend the soul, assist the memory, and enlarge conception.

Besides, in all parts of the kingdom, there are  
men



men of probity, genius and learning, who, assured of the truth of what I am endeavouring to prove, have fixed on a little rural spot to enjoy the blessings of health and reflection, and pass life, retired from the bustle of carping mortals, in sweet solitude, and delightful contemplation.

To such as these you may repair, with these you may converse with pleasure and advantage, from these you will certainly reap the highest instruction.

If such considerations carry with them any weight, surely we need not pause a moment to decide the case.

The country life must as far exceed that of the town as health is preferable to sickness, the mind to the body, pleasure to pain, or substance to shadow.

It only remains to assure our country friends, that they may rely on the truth of the several descriptions and definitions comprized in this little work; that the characters are drawn from life, without addition or extenuation, and that the admonitions arose from a real concern for the welfare of mankind, and their progress in knowledge and virtue, wherein consists the true happiness, and supreme dignity of human nature.



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